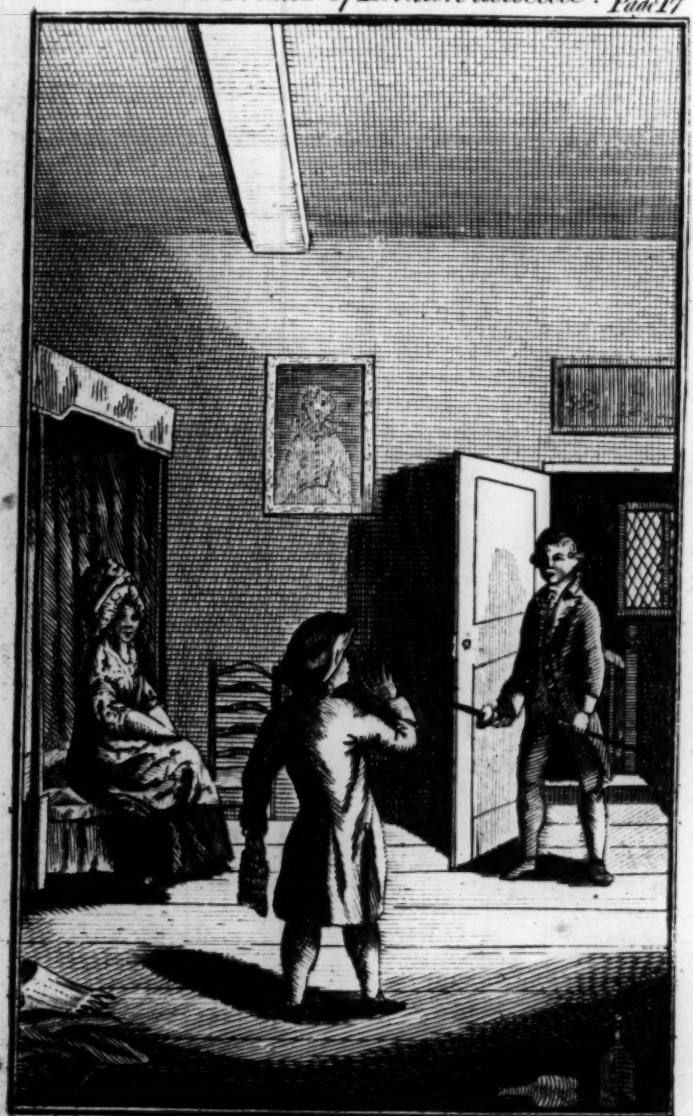
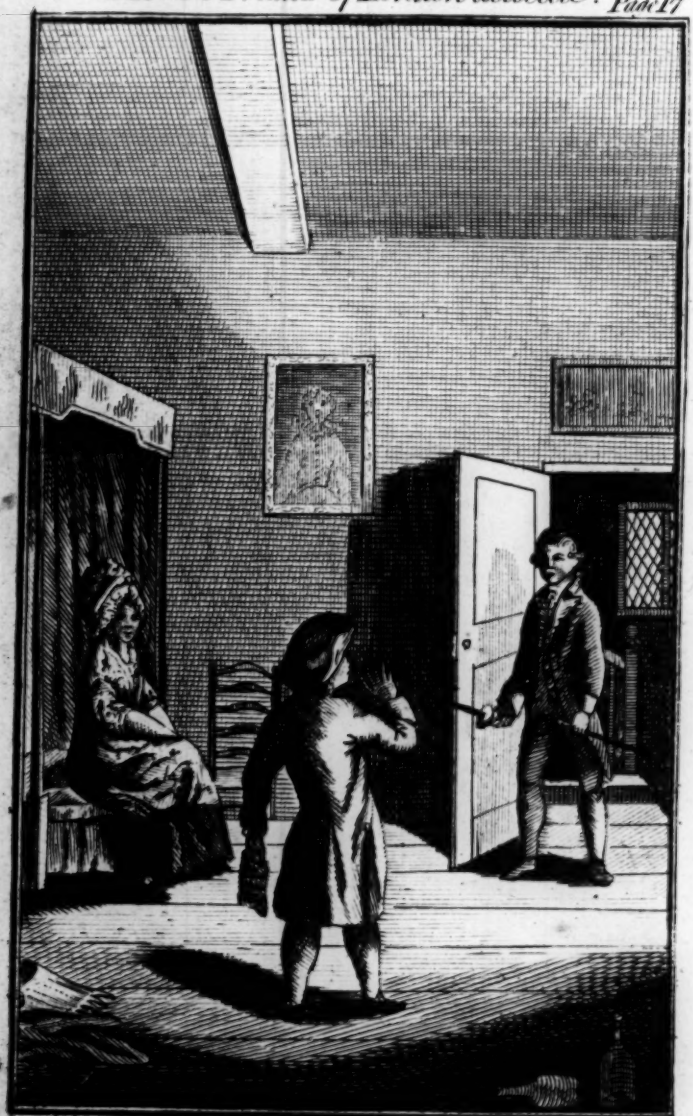


All Night the Youth of Pleasure takes his fill,
But in the morning comes th'enormous Bill -
He scruples, Bully's call'd, Sir; no delay,
Either your money or your Life you pay.'



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THE NEW

CHEATS *of* LONDON *Expoſed;*

OR,

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BEING A

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Gamblers	Money Droppers	Smugglers
Goſſips	Ring Droppers	Shop-liſters
Hangers-on	Pimps	Street-robbers
Highwaymen	Pretended Friends	Trappers
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THE

PREFACE.

THE many ſhocking crimes committed in and about London, as well as Frauds and cheats daily practiſed on the unwary tradeſman, mechanic and deluded countryman, call aloud for detection and diſcovery.

Much has been already written from time to time on this ſubject, and, in many inſtances, with good effect; but as too much praiſe cannot be beſtowed on Virtue, ſo neither can too much be written in pourtraying Vice in its proper deformity, in order to give mankind a deteſtation thereto; therefore a timely warning againſt that variety of iniquity and roguery, which at preſent is carried on by the wicked and abandoned, to the injury and frequent ruin of the unhappy as well as unthinking part of the world, who have the misfortune to fall into their hands, becomes ſtill neceſſary.

For the above ſalutary purpoſes the following ſheets were written, to put mankind upon their guard, that they may avoid the ſnares of deceivers; to diſplay the various practices made uſe of to cheat

and defraud, and to caution the unwary againſt credulity and plauſible fiction, which too often are productive of as bad conſequences as the more barefaced crimes herein after ſpecified.

The reader will obſerve, that in general I have addreſſed myſelf to countrymen and women, for the following reaſons: As they are at a diſtance from London, and, perhaps, having imbibed favourable and flattering ideas of it's wealth, magnitude and grandeur, may be induced thereby to repair to the metropolis, rather than remain in the country; and, before they have been in town twenty-four hours, are frequently ruined by the ſons and daughters of diſſolution, who lie in wait to deſtroy all thoſe unhappy creatures who are ſo unfortunate as to fall into their clutches. In order, likewiſe, to put thoſe whoſe buſineſs demands their preſence in London, on their guard againſt Frauds, cheats, and impoſtors, I have diſplayed the various *new methods* they practiſe in purſuit of their villainous and illicit proceedings, the better to enable my country readers to eſcape the traps laid for them; which, being properly attended to, will enable them not only to avoid, but to detect and bring to juſtice the violators of the laws of their country.

To

To the diſgrace of humanity, ſenſe, and religion, the diſhonour of this once flouriſhing kingdom, and the ſcoff and ridicule of our neighbours the *French* and *Germans*, it is affirmed, and too truly, that there are more depredations, Frauds, thefts and whoredoms committed in London in one week, than were in ancient Rome in twelve months; which may be eaſily accounted for —London is become luxurious, and, notwithſtanding the ſalutary laws enacted againſt vice and immorality, luxury begets diſſipation, and that produces the evils we complain of; whereas Rome was, while virtuous, free from luxury and the miſchiefs conſequent thereupon.

Every perſon that wiſhes for the welfare of his country, cannot better gratify his inclination than by endeavouring to ſuppreſs vice and profaneneſs, and exalt virtue and morality in their place; which may be effected by all denominations of the community, from the prince to the beggar, by ſetting ſuch examples to each other of religious well governed lives, as are perfectly conformable to the laws of the land, the paths of rectitude, and to that impartial juſtice which we owe to humanity, benevolence, and truth, as the guide of all our actions. Then might we hope to vie with ancient

Rome, when in the meridian of her glory, honour and virtue.

If by detecting, in this little work, the various Frauds daily practiſed by villains and ſharpers, I ſhould thereby prevent a ſingle perſon from being robbed, defrauded, ſeduced or deluded, I ſhall be happy in the reflection that I have *done the ſtate ſome ſervice*; and I will only add, that regardleſs of the critic's cenſure, actuated by a ſtrict adherence to truth, and for the benefit and ſecurity of my fellow creatures, I have exhibited the following ſcenes for their peruſal, not without hope of having them read with attention, and a proper regard paid to their authenticity, which will ſufficiently reward me for the trouble I have taken to expoſe and detect THE FRAUDS OF LONDON.

RICH. KING.

INDEX.

INDEX.

Page

PREFACE, —— —— 3
Bawds, generally women of abandoned principles, —— —— 13
Frequenters of our modern conventicles, and mockers of religion, —— 14
Bullies, dependent on Bawds, &c. &c. 15
A countryman taken in by a young Wanton on the look-out, —— —— 16
An extraordinary demand after the payment of a bill at a bawdy-houſe, —— 17
A receipt given for the above by a Bully on the poſteriors of a countryman, —— 17
Many a perſon enters the brothel that never returns therefrom, —— 17
Duffers, men that prey on the credulity of both ſexes with contraband goods of little value, —— —— 18
The method Duffers uſe to elude your attention, 18
India handkerchiefs and French ſtockings from Field-lane and Rag-fair, —— 18
Conjurers pretend to a knowledge of future events, —— —— 19
In London many Fortune-Tellers famous and believed in, —— —— 19
The arts of Fortune-Tellers pourtrayed, 20
Gipſies aſſociate in flocks, —— 21
The various practices of Gipſies and Fortune-Tellers to extort money, —— 21
Footpads, and their ſalutation on meeting with you, —— —— 21

Obſervations

Page

Obſervations on the ſalutary power veſted in peace officers for the apprehending of diſorderly perſons, —— —— 22
Cheats, Thieves, and Vagrants ſuppreſſed, by what means, —— —— 23
Gamblers of different profeſſions, —— 23
Noblemen and tradeſmen ruined by Gamblers, 23
Places frequented by Gamblers, —— 25
Female Gamblers barter one commodity for another, —— —— 25
Houſes of reception for Gamblers, —— 25
Gamblers detected at Hazard, &c. —— 25
Gamblers prey upon the unwary, —— 26
Old Fifty per Cent. ſent for to have a ſhare in the ruin of the deluded, —— 26
Gamblers to be met with at Horſe-races all over England, —— —— 26
Depredations committed at Cock-fighting, 27
Diſpute between my Lord and a Butcher, his Grace and a Farrier, *all hail fellows well met*, —— —— 28
Bowling, Billiards, Tennis, &c. in themſelves inoffenſive, but, being frequented by Gamblers, to be avoided, —— 28
Female Gamblers at Routs, Aſſemblies, Maſquerades, and Concerts, in ſome ſort may be ſaid to preſide, —— —— 28
Lady S——'s billet-deux to Colonel B——, 29
Invitation to the Ducheſs of C——'s rout on Sunday evening, and the conſequence thereof, —— —— 29
While my Lord S—— was planning ſchemes for the good of the nation, Colonel B—— was uſing the means to propagate his lordſhip's

Page

ſhip's family, and to record his name to poſterity, —— —— 29
Goſſips, women of invention, detraction, and defamation, of all denominations, from a Ducheſs to a Dairy-maid, —— 30
A ſtriking example of the fatal effects produced by goſſipping —— 31
Caution to ſervant maids againſt tale-bearing, &c. —— —— 31
Miſapplication of a virtuous intention, 32
Parents cannot be too wary in the choice of governeſſes for their daughters, —— 32
No exaggeration in the ſtory of a good ſervant and an unfeeling hypocritical miſtreſs, 34
Hangers-on, a ſet of men of an indolent lazy life, —— —— 35
A very uſeful book, calculated for our female country readers, recommended as worthy their attention, —— 35
Hangers-on pretend to a knowledge of the ſciences, &c. and thereby introduce themſelves to gentlemen, —— 35
Hangers-on to be avoided, —— 36
Highwaymen, reſolute and deſperate defaulters, 36
The various ſchemes practiſed by Highwaymen, —— —— —— 36
A new work of caution and admonition, referred to, —— —— 37
Means pointed out to evade Highwaymen, 37
Houſe-breakers, the moſt daring of all villains, to be guarded againſt, —— 38
Various ways made uſe of in breaking houſes, 38
Two ſhocking inſtances of wantonneſs and barbarity, —— —— 39

Jilts,

Page
Jilts, Ladies of eaſy virtue, —— 40
The tricks and impoſitions practiſed by Jilts, 41
Of all Whores the Jilt is moſt to be avoided, 41
Intelligencers, perſons who keep ſtatute-halls, their characters, —— —— 41
Inſolvents, their various arts and ſtratagems, 42
Shoe-blacks, chimney-ſweepers, and duſtmen, compelling creditors, —— 43
Inſolvents that have made a trade of getting into priſon and cheating their creditors, 44
Kidnappers, men of abandoned principles, 44
Different characters aſſumed by Kidnappers, 45
Various tricks and manœuvres played off by Kidnappers, to enveigle and delude the unlettered countryman, in and about London, 45
Lottery Office Keepers, their practices, 46
Office Keepers decamp for fear of detection, 47
An advertiſement in a Morning Paper noticed, —— —— 48
Ways found out by Lottery Office Keepers to evade the law, —— 48
A caution to countrymen to beware of Lottery Office Keepers, —— 48
Mock Auctioneers pretend to honour and honeſty, —— —— 48
The fair trader recommended, —— 49
Money-Droppers, a deſcription of, —— 50
The countryman lured by the Money-Droppers to play at cards, and by them taken in and cheated, —— 51
Ring-Droppers, —— —— 52
Pimps, their profeſſions and practices, — 53
A Frenchman near Golden Square, character of, —— —— 54
An inſtance of virtue in a nobleman, —— 55

Procurers

Page
Procurers and Procureſſes, their characters and avocations in life, —— 56
Various arts made uſe of by Procureſſes to betray the innocent, —— 57
Pretended Friends many and dangerous, 59
Knaves and Cheats, in ſome reſpects, may be avoided, but not Falſe Friends, — 60
Pickpockets in and about London more numerous than in all Europe beſide, —— 61
The noted Barrington and Miſs Weſt detected, 61
Some Pickpockets very dextrous, none more ſo than Miſs Weſt, —— —— 62
Quacks, pretenders to phyſic, —— 63
Puffs and hand-bills to enſnare the countryman and others, —— —— 64
Mountebank Doctors, characters of, — 65
Receivers of Stolen Goods, and mal-practices conſidered, —— —— 65
A tradeſman of Holborn taken up and examined before Sir John Fielding for purchaſing and receiving ſtolen goods, 66
Four notorious Thieves, *Flint* and his colleagues detected, and committed —— 66
Method to prevent the buying ſtolen goods propoſed, —— —— 67
Spungers uſual mode of addreſs, —— 68
Spungers eaſily to be known by their appearance, —— —— 69
Sharpers, generally of good addreſs, —— 70
Sharpers to be met with at the Horſe-race, Cock-fight, &c. —— —— 71
The various methods Sharpers have to cheat and deceive, —— —— 72
Swindlers and their artifices conſidered, 73

In

Page
In the Weſt of England Swindlers detected, 75
Swindlers never unprovided with bail, 77
Compoſed of Jews, Germans, Frenchmen, and natives, —— —— 77
A caution to countrymen to beware of Swindlers, —— —— 79
Setters, a deſpicable ſet of wretches, —— 79
So artful are Setters, that if you once fall into their ſnares ruin enſues, —— 80
A poetical performance recommended, 81
Smugglers, a numerous race, conſidered and expoſed, —— —— 82
A particular account of goods ſmuggled in Suffolk, from May 1744 to January 1745, 83
Smugglers, reſolute and daring offenders, 95
Shoplifters pernicious to the trading part of the community, their frauds ſet forth, 86
The different modes they uſe to accompliſh their thefts, —— —— 87
How to guard againſt Shoplifters, —— 89
Trappers, a ſet of wicked wretches that prey upon the credulous and unwary, —— 89
Strangers taken in by them, —— 90
Trappers way-lay gentlemen in the Park, 91
Whores, an account of, —— 92
Of different denominations, —— 92
How decked out, —— —— 93
Way-layers, their occupations, —— 96
Countrymen and ſhop-keepers cheated by them, 98
Errand-boys robbed by them, —— 98
Waggon-hunters, what, —— 100
Diſſertation on Jews, and their modes of cheating, —— —— 103
Concluſion, —— —— 108

THE

THE

FRAUDS of LONDON detected;

BEING A

Warning-piece againſt the various Scenes of Iniquity which are daily exhibited in that Metropolis.

BAWDS,

GENERALLY are women of abandoned principles and diſſipated lives, who, in their younger years, practiſed as ladies of pleaſure, through the various ſtages of that way of life; till old age advancing, they ſet up the profeſſion of a Bawd, being well qualified for that undertaking, from the inſtructions and experience purchaſed at the expence of health and happineſs, through a ſeries of years ſpent in riot and debauchery. Thus accompliſhed, they take a houſe for the reception of both ſexes, invite young girls thereto, cloath and ſet them off to advantage, and then diſpoſe of them to ſome old lechers, who pay a high price for the ruin of ſuch children, among whom are many not twelve years of age.

Theſe old Bawds frequent our religious conventicles, and other public places, with a young Nun (as they call them) under their arm, who, while the old beldam is mocking religion with uplifted eyes and hypocritical prayers, endeavours to inveigle

ſome man fit for their purpoſe. When ſervice is done, on being accoſted by a perſon in view, the old woman ſtumbles, falls down, or faints, as beſt ſuits her purpoſe; the gentleman aſſiſts her, offers his arm, or a coach to convey her home; which ſhe accepts, and makes an apology for the trouble ſhe gives him, deſiring her daughter to thank the gentleman for his great care of her mother. This ſhe does, and, if near enough, ſqueezes him by the hand, or otherways ſhews a willingneſs to be better acquainted with him. On their arrival at her hotel, the ſtranger is invited in, and deſired to partake of a collation, which is always ready for that purpoſe; then on ſome frivolous excuſe or other the old lady quits the room, and leaves the young couple by themſelves, which opportunity the young man never fails to improve; always having her different cues to be forward, ſhy, or otherwiſe, as may beſt ſuit the intereſt of her employer, and allure the gallant into the ſnare laid for him.

To enumerate the different arts and wiles made uſe of by the Bawd to decoy the innocent of both ſexes, to relate the various ſtratagems, frauds, and ſcenes of wickedneſs purſued and exhibited by her direction and cognizance, would fill a large volume; therefore I ſhall content myſelf with laying down ſome rules and obſervations thereon, whereby the reader, if a countryman, may eſcape the trap prepared for him; if a citizen, and converſant therewith, they may nevertheleſs ſerve as a caution for him not to follow or give way to the pernicious practices uſed by theſe harpies of deſtruction, who, like the devil, take pleaſure in ſeducing others, merely becauſe they themſelves, through a vicious and abandoned life, have been ruined both in mind and body.

Beware

Beware of thoſe who, without any knowledge, pretend to be acquainted with you, your families and friends; this is an old bait to intice young women into their den, to be devoured by the ravenous wolves to whom the Bawd is provider. Beware of receiving letters of aſſignation to meet at her houſe, ye unthinking young men, for ſuch letters are calculated to enſnare and bring you to miſery, and deſtroy your health, fame, and fortune. Avoid, ye countrymen and women, the pretended friendſhip of ſtrangers that welcome you to town on the arrival of the machines, &c. that accoſt you at the inns, as they generally attend there for that purpoſe; if you once permit them to converſe with you, they will, by their artful ſpeeches, ſo far ingratiate themſelves into your good graces, as to engage your belief, get the better of your reſolutions, and at length bring you (by liſtening to their ſtories) to ruin and deſtruction.

BULLIES,

ARE dependants on Bawds and Whores; ſometimes the Bully pretends to be the huſband of the whore, whoſe bread he eats, whoſe quarrel he fights, and at whoſe call he is always ready to do as commanded. Theſe men are perſons of a vicious and diſorderly life, and often have laviſhed their whole ſubſtance on the very women that have them in keeping, for the purpoſe of defending them from inſults, and giving a ſanction to their calling. It is very common for theſe women to bring home a gentleman, and, on entering the houſe, aſk the maid in a whiſper, "if her maſter is at home?" The maid, according to her former inſtructions, replies no, he is gone out of town, and will not return till to-morrow; upon which

the gentleman is invited in, and entertained with a ſtory of the Bully's jealouſy and Whore's conſtancy, till matters are ſettled in ſuch a manner as to make his attendance neceſſary, which takes place on the gentleman's expreſſing a deſire to depart. The bill being called for, if he finds fault with the charge, the maid enters, and ſays her maſter is below, and immediately the Bully appears, who demands his buſineſs there; "if he wants to debauch his wife, or bilk the houſe;" he then bluſters, and talks of bringing an action for *crim. con.* but at length is pacified by the bill's being diſcharged, and his quondam ſpouſe ſatisfied.

There are alſo Bullies who frequent the gaming tables, and aſſociate with cheats; that ſwear, lie, and forſwear, as may beſt accompliſh their deſigns. If theſe cheats are detected in playing foul, they immediately refer the caſe to the Bully, who inſiſts on the fairneſs of the play. Or ſhould theſe gamblers loſe a ſum of money, the Bully is at hand to ſwear they had been cheated, and by oaths and threatenings ſeldom fails to extort it back again. And yet in general theſe kind of gentry are arrant cowards; for ſhould they attack a man of ſpirit who dares defend himſelf and his cauſe, they will ſkulk away on the leaſt reſiſtance; or ſay they were in jeſt, and make the moſt abject ſubmiſſion to the offended, or tamely ſuffer themſelves to be kicked out of doors without the leaſt oppoſition. On the contrary, if they meet with a man that is intimidated by their bluſtering, they never fail to bruiſe and ill treat him; an inſtance of which happened not many days ago: A countryman of my acquaintance being in town, was lured by *a young wanton on the look-out*, and inveigled to a well known bagnio in the invirons of Covent Garden, where

where they regaled themſelves for ſome time with the beſt the houſe afforded, when the lady propoſed adjourning to her own houſe to ſpend the remaining part of the evening, as a reception free from moleſtation. Accordingly the bill was called for and paid, and the couple retired to the lady's lodgings, where they ſpent the night in joy and feſtivity. But lo! when morning came, and my acquaintance was about to depart, there was a demand of five guineas made by madam for lodging, &c. a gratuitous preſent is alſo expected for civility, and ſomething for the maid. Being ſtruck with the exorbitance of the demand, he abſolutely refuſed to comply therewith; upon which Mr. Bully made his appearance, and in a peremptory tone inſiſted on the lodging being paid for, the lady ſatisfied, and ſome acknowledgment made to the maid, for the extra trouble ſhe had been at in ſitting up all night to prevent his running away without diſcharging what he owed, or he ſwore he would run him through the body. The countryman having a greater regard for life than money, and more ſelf-love than courage, tamely ſubmitted to the Bully's menaces, and dropping ſeven guineas and a crown, for which he had a receipt on his poſteriors ſigned by the Bully's foot, from the top of the ſtairs to the bottom, with the epithet of a ſneaking country Put, that did not know when he was uſed well.

I would adviſe all in general, and countrymen in particular, to avoid ſuch company, or entering thoſe houſes of ill fame where theſe Bullies attend. I am ſorry to ſay, that many who enter the brothels in and about town, never return from them. Theſe Bullies have as little reſpect for the dictates of humanity as they have for the other ſocial vir-

tues, but living vicious and abandoned lives, are as unfeeling in deſtroying their fellow creatures, as the ſportſman is in killing his game.

DUFFERS.

THESE are a ſet of men that prey on the credulity of the unſuſpecting of both ſexes, by plying at the corner of ſtreets, courts, and alleys, to vend their contraband wares, which generally conſiſt of ſilk handkerchiefs made in Spital Fields, remnants of ſilk purchaſed at the piece-brokers, which they tell you are true India, ſtockings from Rag Fair or Field Lane, ſometimes ſtolen, ſometimes bought at a very low price, which they declare are juſt ſmuggled from France, and therefore can afford you a bargain if you will become a purchaſer. And in order to induce you to buy, they preſent you with a real India handkerchief, or a pair of French ſilk ſtockings to look at, the more artfully to draw your attention to their diſcourſe; which having obtained, they deſire you to ſtep with them aſide for fear of being obſerved by any of the revenue officers, who would ſeize their property. Then they take you to a bye place, unfrequented by company, and open their goods for your choice; and ſhould you chance to buy, it is ten to one if you get the commodity you bartered for, unleſs you give a very extravagant price indeed. The method they uſe to elude your attention is, by wrapping up the article in a piece of paper, and putting another of inferior value in its room, which they give you, and you put it into your pocket, without ſuſpecting the cheat till you get home, when you become ſenſible of your error too late to retrieve your loſs.

On

On the other hand, ſhould you not purchaſe, after looking at their goods, you will get abuſed, and your pocket picked, at which they are very dextrous; or, ſhould you give them money to change, they tell you they will only ſtep to the public-houſe and get it changed, and come again in an inſtant. You ſee them enter the houſe, but not returning in a reaſonable time, you find, on inquiry, they have eſcaped from you at a back-door, to your great loſs and mortification.

To avoid ſuch impoſitions, let me warn the unſuſpecting countryman and unwary (in whom the Duffers are ſeldom deceived) not to hold any converſe at all with them, either in the ſtreets or public-houſes; for if they do, it is very likely they will ſoon fall a prey to their own folly, in neglecting the precautions I have given them, which, if attended to, will ſecure the peace and property of many of my fellow ſubjects.

FORTUNE-TELLERS.

ALMOST all countries abound with theſe vermin, either in a great or leſs degree, throughout Europe. In London we have ſeveral very famous in the aſtrological ſcience, who are as much ſought after as the philoſopher's ſtone, and whoſe predictions are as eagerly ſwallowed, as the Alcoran by Mahometans, and as much attended as a prime miniſter on a levee day.

Theſe Conjurers (as they call themſelves) pretend to a knowledge of future events, by aſtrological obſervations of the celeſtial ſigns in the zodiac; the better to carry on their deluſions, tell you they have made it their ſtudy to calculate the nativity of mankind for the good of poſterity; can tell you whether

whether your life will be happy or miſerable, rich or poor, fruitful or barren, and a thouſand other incidents to pleaſe your fancy and raiſe your curioſity; inſinuating, at the ſame time (if they think you have plenty of money about you) that there is much good awaits you, and therefore they muſt have a greater price for their intelligence. Who would not give a guinea, nay two, ſay they, for the completion of their wiſhes, be it wiſdom or wealth, rather than half a crown to learn that they muſt live in folly and poverty the reſt of their lives? As this is the caſe, the learned Doctor ſeldom fails of augmenting his purſe, by tickling his cuſtomers ears with high notions of the grandeur and happineſs they will enjoy, and which he hopes to ſee very ſhortly accompliſhed, for his own honour in divination as well as their benefit. Theſe, and ſuch like arts, ſeldom fail of producing cuſtom; and if by chance he is right once in fifty times, he takes care to have the ſame publiſhed through the town, in order to encourage others to know their fortunes by applying to the Cunning Man.

Some of the moſt famous of theſe Fortune-Tellers have no leſs than forty or fifty attendants employed by them to get intelligence of their cuſtomers, in order to anſwer ſuch queſtions as may be put by the inquirer to the learned Doctor, which is generally done in the following manner: A countryman or woman juſt come to town, who hear of the Doctor's ſuperior knowledge of futurity, and are willing to be made acquainted with their lot, apply to him for that purpoſe. Their arrival at his manſion is announced; the Doctor aſks his intelligencers what is he, or ſhe, or whence they came? If they do not anſwer theſe queſtions, the perſon is ſent away with, *The Doctor is not at home, but you may be*

ſure

ſure to find him to-morrow about this time. On his going away, one or more are diſpatched after him, to get information about his buſineſs, name, place of abode, country, and other circumſtances that may ſerve to convince him of the Doctor's great abilities in the art of aſtrology, which neceſſary information to eſtabliſh his fame is generally collected from the man himſelf, or his neighbour who came up to town with him.

In the inner parts of theſe kingdoms, as well as on the coaſts, Fortune-Tellers are called Gipſies, and aſſociate together in flocks, both ſexes living indiſcriminately; they generally apply to young perſons, to tell the fortune of new married couples; and to ſweethearts who are impatient to be married, and be made men and women, which the Gipſies aſſure them will ſhortly be their caſe. The various practices they make uſe of to extort money from the ignorant country girls are without number, every day produces an inſtance of their villainous fraud; ſuch as obtaining all their money, cloaths, &c. with which they make off, ſtripping the hedges of linen, and the houſes of furniture, ſtealing infants, &c. and every other kind of roguery. The facts above recited methinks ſhould deter country maidens from liſtening to their hypocritical cant, and youths from their artful ſchemes to ſeduce them from virtue and honour, the only guardians of innocence.

FOOT-PADS.

FOOT-PADS are numerous, and ſo often deſcribed in public papers, that little new light can be thrown upon them and their practices; daring inſolence and knock-down arguments are generally

generally their firſt ſalute; after which, they rifle your pockets; and if you have but little value about you, they often maim or violently bruiſe you for want of that you are not in poſſeſſion of.

The ſhocking acts of theſe rapacious ſons of plunder call loudly for the interference of the magiſtracy, to put a ſtop to the daring and conſummate impudence they exhibit in and about this metropolis, ſculking in bye lanes, deſolate places, hedges, and commons, in order to way-lay the unſuſpecting ſtranger and countryman, and rob them of their property; nay, if they offer to reſiſt, murder them without remorſe. I therefore would adviſe travellers of every denomination to be careful of mentioning the property they have about them, either at the inns upon the road, or the public houſes in town, as the Foot-pads ply at theſe places in order to gain information of the road they travel, the ſum they carry, the commodity they have to diſpoſe of, and their return home, in hopes thereby to be enabled to rob them without detection. Before I cloſe this paragraph let me obſerve, that if a continuation of the power veſted in conſtables were eſtabliſhed in times of peace as well as war, ſo as to enable them to impreſs all diſorderly perſons, not capable of giving a ſatisfactory account of themſelves, many Foot-pads would be taken up, and rendered ſerviceable to the country by being employed either on board a ſhip, in our dock yards, or elſewhere, as the legiſlative body ſhould think proper, and by that means the town and country be partly cleared of theſe peſts to ſociety, who for many years have committed depredations ſhocking to humanity.

I was led into the foregoing obſervations from the recent utility produced by the preſent impreſs, thieves,

thieves, cheats and vagrants being greatly reduced, murders, ſtreet-robberies, and burglaries not being one-tenth in number they were before the civil power had authority to take them up; and which I am perſuaded will be ſtill attended with great good to the community in general, if the above, or ſome ſuch other mode, is purſued for the preſervation of our lives and property.

GAMBLERS.

THERE are as many different kinds of gambling as there are trades, and they move in as many different ſpheres, from the moſt noble duke to the moſt abandoned chimney-ſweeper; pretenders to honour and honeſty, verſed in various tricks and arts, by which many among both nobility and gentry have ſquandered away their fortunes, in accompliſhing themſelves for the epithet of *a complete Gameſter*, or, in the true ſenſe of the word, *an expert Gambler*.

If inſtances were neceſſary to prove the aſſertion, I could produce hundreds within my own knowledge, many not above a twelvemonth ago, that have been ruined by the pernicious itch for gaming. Young noblemen and gentlemen juſt come to clear eſtates, and affluent fortunes, have, in the hour of diſſipation, been way-laid by Gamblers, and, through their arts, frauds, and deceptions, have been ſtripped of the laſt ſhilling. Tradeſmen and others, tho' not exactly in the ſame way, yet in ways ſimilar to the before-mentioned, have been tricked by the Gamblers of their all, the conſequences whereof have been emigration, bankruptcy, or impriſonment. The lower claſs of mankind having had their ſhare of the ſuppoſed run of ill-luck, or frowns of fortune, as they call it, and

not

not knowing when they are impoſed on, have become ſufferers in the laſt degree; many of whom, in order to retrieve their loſſes, have had recourſe to picking of pockets, ſhop-lifting, and ſuch like offences, till, emboldened by ſucceſs, and for ſome time eſcaping detection, they have ſet out on greater exploits, ſuch as breaking into houſes by night, robbing on the highway, &c. till at length they finiſh their career at Tyburn, when they have declared, that the love of gambling was the firſt ſtep that led them on to the commiſſion of greater crimes, for which they now juſtly ſuffer.

Having ſaid thus much on this head, without quoting an inſtance thereof, I ſhall content myſelf for the preſent with appealing to the feelings of the deluded, rather than hurt the patient, by probing the wound not yet half cured, by relating the cauſes that have brought him into the miſery he now labours under; but by detecting and ſetting up to view ſome of the many cheats practiſed by Gamblers, hope to enable others to eſchew the ſnares laid for them, by avoiding their company and inticements, which they throw out by different allurements, in order to make ſure of their prey; which, when once in their power, they do not part with till ſtripped of every thing of value: this done, they ſend the poor Pigeon (as they call him) home unfledged, to their no ſmall joy, but to the great mortification of the ſufferer.

It will not be amiſs here, to ſtate ſeveral of the games at which the Gambler is moſt dextrous, and the means by which he impoſes on and defrauds others, the better to put you on your guard againſt his villainy. I will mention ſeveral of the moſt faſhionable and alluring pleaſures at which their various methods of deluding and cheating are practiſed

tiſed with ſucceſs, *viz.* Gaming-houſes, Horſe-races, Cock-fighting, Bowling, Billiards, and Tennis, of a public nature; together with Routs, Aſſemblies, Maſquerades, and Concerts of a particular or private nature; in the latter of theſe you will find notorious Gamblers of the female ſex, who deal in art and deception, as well as ſome more notorious male cheats, who frequently barter one commodity for another, provided diſcount is allowed for prompt payment, which often is the caſe, without a reference to credit, or making it a debt of honour, of which I ſhall ſpeak more largely in the courſe of my preſent ſpeculations, having firſt touched on the matters before mentioned, which call both for reprehenſion and caution againſt.

In this great city are ſeveral houſes not only converted, but others built, for the aſſembly of Gamblers, into which, however, none under a certain degree are admitted, unleſs a friend of a ſubſcriber is introduced as a novice in the art, in order to be initiated into thoſe rules of fraud and cunning they ſquare their actions by; his admittance may be effected at the expence of five or ten thouſand pounds, and a qualification is given of his adeptneſs in the ſcience, which will enable him to exhibit with *eclat* at Newmarket or York-races.

Theſe pretenders to honour and honeſty, have been detected many times in practiſing the vileſt frauds at play, particularly at the game of Hazard, which is much in vogue among the Gamblers, who carry falſe dice, which they ſubſtitute in the room of fair ones, with ſo much dexterity and ſlight that the cheat is not thought of, nor the dice ſuſpected; for, ſhould you examine them, it

would be almoſt impoſſible to find out the deception, unleſs you were verſed in their arts, and acquainted with their tricks.

Thus ſet up with falſe dice, falſe cards, and a wicked deſigning heart, they prey upon the ignorant and unthinking, and, as they herd together upon all occaſions, ſo they give each other aſſiſtance; while one Gameſter is cheating the man of fortune within doors, others are laying traps for him without, by getting a knowledge of his eſtate or fortune from his ſervants or acquaintance; procuring ſtamps to aſſign over his eſtate in readineſs, telling the old uſurer, that money is wanted at B——'s; and if he does not be quick with it, his brother Jew in iniquity will be before-hand with him. The ſum muſt be a round one, for the prodigal has many thouſand acres to be diſpoſed of, and that immediately; away hobbles the old gentleman, who generally receives ſo much per Cent. per hour for the money he lends, till between them all, the gentleman is fleeced of part, if not his whole eſtate. The ſhame of being thought a bubble, and expoſed to the town, frequently prevents gentlemen from making uſe of the ſtatute provided in ſuch caſes; rather than their reputation ſhould ſuffer, they tamely ſubmit to be plundered as aforeſaid.

At Horſe-races the countryman may be aſſured of meeting with Gamblers, who make a practice of going from one race to another all over the kingdom; and, notwithſtanding the country farmer, and breeder of horſes, may, in reality, be a better judge of theſe cattle than the Gameſter, yet I would caution him againſt wagering with theſe gentry, as they, becoming parties in many matches, get information from different hands

hands which horſe is, and which is not to win, and by that means generally take you *in*, as they call it, and laugh at your folly. They often make bets amongſt themſelves, merely to deceive you, and give a preference to the horſe they know muſt loſe, in order to draw you in to lay money upon it. If it happens (which is ſeldom the caſe) that an honeſt match is to be run, of which they are unacquainted, then they make uſe of the following or like ſtratagem to inſure their pockets, that is, they lay you a bet, and put the money into the next gentleman's hands to hold, which they pretend they do not know (though he is at the ſame time their intimate collegue); if you win, the gentleman is not to be found; if you loſe, one of them meets you, with much concern in his countenance, and ſays, he, by following your example, and laying on the wrong horſe, has loſt twice your ſum, then ſqueezes you by the hand, and wiſhes you better luck another time, and ſo bids you farewel for the preſent.

Cock-fighting, of all games, is ſurely one of the moſt barbarous, and a ſcandal to thoſe who follow it, both high and low; for, notwithſtanding its antiquity as a diverſion in England, it is a great diſgrace to humanity; and ſurely none but the moſt notorious gamblers can be elated therewith, or give a ſanction to barbarity, that even ſhocks the wild Indian to hear of. At theſe ſcenes of cruelty the greateſt depredations are committed by the attendants thereon, the moſt prophane and wicked expreſſions made uſe of, the moſt horrid and blaſphemous oaths and curſes denounced againſt Fortune for the loſs of an odd battle, with a jargon of diſcordant tongues as hard to be underſtood, and in as great confuſion,

as thoſe at Babel, compoſe the company; among whom are to be found my Lord in diſpute with a Butcher, and his Grace with the Farrier, all in ſocial fellowſhip together. Theſe, and other meetings of the like nature, I would exhort every perſon to avoid, where nothing is to be obtained but at the expence of humanity, and to the diſcredit of Chriſtianity.

With reſpect to other diverſions, ſuch as Bowling, Billiards, Tennis, &c. they have each their different pleaſures, and, in themſelves, are inoffenſive, genteel, and manly, but like others are frequented by Gamblers, and therefore to be ſhunned. The frauds practiſed at the above games are various, and depend much upon the ſkill of the Gambler, who becomes proficient by daily practice; and, in order to make his market, can play at them either well or ill, and gets or loſes as he finds moſt conducive to his intereſt; for, as he lives by cheating, to loſe ſometimes may lead to his winning at others; or by agreeing to take your part againſt his brother Gamblers, which, being yielded to, he firſt loſes that he may afterwards win a part of your money, which is divided amongſt them when you are gone. Should you play at theſe diverſions, let it be only for trifles, but, above all, beware of betting or engaging in company you or your friends have no knowledge of, for if you do, ten to one but you are *had*, a cant word they make uſe of, inſtead of ſaying, as the truth is, *we have cheated him.*

At Routs, Aſſemblies, Maſquerades, and Concerts, are introduced gaming-tables of different kinds, at which the Gamblers of the female ſex ſometimes preſide. "Lady S—— ſends her "com-

" compliments to Colonel B——, to acquaint " him that on Sunday evening next, ſhe ſhall " be glad of his accompanying her to the Duch- " eſs of C——'s Rout, where ſhe hopes to be " enabled to pay him her loſings at Lady G——'s " laſt Sunday night. Lady S—— is deſirous " of the Colonel's being her partner for that " night, as they know each other's play, and " thereby may think of ſome way of making re- " taliation for the loſſes they have each ſuſtained " on being ſeparated." The Colonel was punctual to a minute at Lady S——'s dreſſing-room, having previouſly enquired if my Lord was in town, juſt as ſhe was giving orders to admit him. After ſome time ſpent in adjuſting the manœuvres to be exhibited at the Rout, and the tricks they were to play being properly arranged, they ſet off for the irreverend ſcene of diſſipation held at her Grace's; where, not being proſperous, the lady, in order to diſpel the Colonel's gloom, that ſenſibly overſpread his face on loſing his laſt guinea, ſurrendered up the fortreſs he had for twelve months beſieged in vain, as a recompence for all the hardſhips he had undergone, and the loſſes he had ſuſtained, during his encampment before the citadel. Upon which they withdrew from the Rout, in order to give and take poſſeſſion of the town in form, and to congratulate with each other on the occaſion. While my good Lord S—— was planning ſchemes, at his country houſe, for the good of the nation, the all-worthy Colonel was uſing his beſt endeavours for increaſing his lordſhip's family, and continuing his name to poſterity.

In ſhort, there are ſo many Gamblers to be met with in every circle about this polite town,

that, to give an account of them, would not only take up more time than I at preſent have leiſure to apply to, but fruſtrate the intent of the preſent undertaking, which is rather to point out the method of eſchewing cheats and their machinations, than to pourtray the various modes of accompliſhing their unlawful practices; and, as I have given ſome account of the moſt glaring, hope the countryman and others will be thereby warned againſt the deluſive frauds and inſinuations of the Gambler of every denomination.

GOSSIPS,

ARE women of invention, detraction, and defamation, whoſe tête-à-tête's are compoſed of ſcandal and abuſe; the Goſſips no ſooner meet together than they begin to tear the reputations of their deſerving neighbours to pieces; and that of each other, when abſent, ſhares the ſame fate.

There are Goſſips of all denominations, from a Ducheſs to a Dairy-maid, whoſe chief ſtudy is miſchief, ſowing feuds and animoſities among their acquaintance, who, if attended to, are capable of ſetting the world together by the ears. As their love of goſſiping encreaſes, ſo does their power of doing evil; not contented with relating the real truth of the tranſactions they know, they can fabricate ſtories of envy at pleaſure, and, by the continual practice of this pernicious chit-chat, become habitual liars, which ought not to be liſtened to by the prudent and wiſe.

But as the greateſt evils are to be dreaded from Goſſips of the middling and lower claſs of life, (they that move in a higher ſphere generally prey-

preying on each other) I ſhall direct my preſent obſervations on this ſubject to them, with a recent and ſtriking example of the fatal effects produced by goſſiping.

The wives of tradeſmen in town, and farmers in the country, ſhould be cautious of mixing at market, or elſewhere, with theſe female tattlers, whoſe pleaſure lies in ſcandal, and in tormenting others, by deluſive tales of their huſband's inconſtancy: having heard from Mrs. Such-a-one, who had it from Dame Margery, who was told by Goody Benſon, that ſhe had heard Betty Simpſon ſay, that Judith Jarvis was informed by Madam Griſkin, that Suſan, her maid, had ſeen Mr. Supple and Mrs. Maudlin in a very indecent poſture, in the garden together, the laſt time Mrs. Supple and Mr. Maudlin were in town. This round-about ſtory, of what never exiſted, is induſtriouſly ſpread till it comes home to the parties themſelves, who, enraged at the aſperſions on their characters, fly to our modern Inquiſition at Doctor's Commons for redreſs, which never fails of intailing infamy and diſgrace on the detractor. Therefore let me alſo warn all ſervant maids, and others, to be careful how they ſpeak, even the truth, to the injury of another, though it comes under their own cognizance, ſo as to criminate others; as it is in the power of vicious and deſigning perſons, however guilty, to puniſh the relater of their miſdeeds, by ſwearing ſuch and ſuch words were ſpoke with a deſign to injure their characters, which words being actionable, the Spiritual Court proſecutes them, and, if not unſaid, and ſubmiſſion made, ſtops not on this ſide excommunication, but a heavy denounciation follows, which ſtops not till the culprits

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are thrown into a loathſome priſon, to end their days in ſorrow and remorſe.

Among the number of inſtances that are within the ſcope of my own knowledge, I never heard of, or met with, a more malicious and ſcandalous proſecution than at this time is carrying on againſt a poor innocent widow, for miſapplying a virtuous intention, by informing a perſon, in affluent circumſtances, with whom ſhe lived a ſervant, that the governeſs of the young lady her daughter was not, from what ſhe had heard, a fit perſon to be intruſted with her education; mentioning the circumſtances that induced her to ſuch an information, and the perſons who informed her thereof. This was done with a good intent, to ſave a young lady from the imminent danger that threatened her morals. The repetition of licentious and wicked actions before youth, are productive of ill habits, which, once attained, are very hard to be eradicated. Parents cannot be too wary with reſpect to the perſons they entruſt their daughters to in their tender years, as their good or ill temper, virtues or vices, in a great meaſure, depend upon the inſtructor's demeanour and well-governed life, in ſetting an example of virtue and piety to the riſing generation.

The well-meaning ſervant, before ſhe unburthened her mind to her miſtreſs, weighed the conſequences, and conſulted her mother and aunt about it; doubting whether her miſtreſs would take it in the true meaning, or as a piece of calumny and detraction, which for ſome time kept her ſilent; but at length, through the advice of her parent, and in conſideration of being herſelf a mother, reflected that if ſhe was in the ſame cir-

circumſtances with her miſtreſs, how happy ſhe ſhould be to gain advice tending to the good of her offspring, at laſt determined her in the attempt to reſcue from danger an only child upon the very brink of ruin.

The miſtreſs, on hearing the ſtory, was greatly prejudiced in favour of the governeſs; and inſtead of weighing the matter judiciouſly, or making the enquiry neceſſary upon ſuch an occaſion, which every virtuous and prudent miſtreſs of a family would have done; gave herſelf up to paſſion and revenge, diſcharged the perſon who confirmed the intimation, (which was her coachman) together with the complainant; but, not content therewith, inſiſted on the governeſs, and her intimates, proſecuting and ruining the poor widow and fatherleſs, for the intended good ſhe offered, dictated by an heart-influenced only by honor and honeſty. The reader may imagine the criminal perſons (for ſuch they really are, notwithſtanding the diſbelief of the miſtreſs) were eaſily brought into her ſchemes, and a proſecution ſet on foot, at her inſtigation, in the Spiritual Court.

A citation being ſerved, the ſervant, through fear and conſternation, abſconded without appearing thereto; upon which excommunication followed. The mother of the perſecuted, without money or friends, was not able to pay the charges accrued thereby. In this ſtate of affairs the melancholy tale reached me, too late to prevent, by advice or otherwiſe, the miſchiefs already begun. The daughter oppreſſed with grief abroad, the mother worn out with ſorrow and affliction at home, a poor child deſolate of friends and parents, ſhare in the preſent calamity. Is

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there a perſon living, that reads their diſtreſs, that doth not pity them? Yes, truly is there! an hard-hearted revengeful miſtreſs, that glories in the havock ſhe has made, and triumphs in the ruin of an honeſt woman. And yet this *pious creature* is on her knees both night and morning, and covers her hypocriſy and impiety by partaking of the Bleſſed Sacrament, repeats the Lord's Prayer, and ſtill perſeveres in oppreſſion and perſecution; nor will ſhe bate an inch of the rigour of the law; not content with rendering the unhappy miſerable, by driving her into the country, ſhe is ſtill proceeding further, and, as far as her rancorous heart and power permit, would condemn her ſoul and body, by rendering her incapable of performing the ſocial duties and virtues of life.

The above detail is no exaggeration of fact, but faithfully and accurately deſcribed, and where it will end God only knows; therefore, once more, O reader, let me warn thee from goſſiping, backbiting, tale-bearing, and ſuch like weak and pernicious tattlings, which may ſubject thee to the like diſgrace and miſery with the much injured and abuſed ſervant, whoſe unhappy caſe I have herein ſet forth.

Reflect upon the foregoing, you happier ſervants in the country, and comminſerate the diſtreſsful ſituation of the poor widow, parent, and fatherleſs. May you live long and happy, without meeting with misfortunes; may the country houſewives, employed in the duties of their vocations *, be ever bleſſed with peace and plenty, free

* To the peruſal of our female country readers, permit me to recommend an excellent family book, called, *The Farmer's*

free from ſcandal and bickerings, which too frequently diſturb repoſe, and imbitter life.

HANGERS-ON.

THESE are a ſet of men of an indolent life, who, rather than labour to obtain a livelihood, will ſubmit to any meanneſs, that they may eat the bread of idleneſs. There are many different kinds, ſome pretend to underſtand the ſciences, others the arts, ſome ſet up for authors, others wits, and the like. No ſooner does the Hanger-on receive an invitation from a gentleman to dine in town, or ſpend a week at his country ſeat, than he is conſtant in his daily viſits in town, or ſtays during the ſeaſon, in the country. He makes himſelf one at all parties, and upon all occaſions; is ready to affirm whatever is ſaid by the donor, and always coincides with him in opinion, however inconſiſtent or even treaſonable; prefers certain diſhes and wine to others, and affects exactly his patron's taſte and ſentiments. In this ſtate they generally live till the gentleman grows tired of their inſipidneſs and impudence, and tells them in downright terms, he wiſhes them to quit his houſe and table. Upon which I have known ſome of theſe Hangers-on challenge the men that have fed them, for two or three years, for barely intimating that their company was no longer agreeable.

Farmer's Wife, or, The Compleat Country Houſewife, as well worthy their attention; being fraught with full inſtructions, and ample directions, for the care, management, and good ordering of every neceſſary and requiſite to complete their knowledge in domeſtic affairs. The price is only eighteen pence.

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I would adviſe my country readers to avoid thoſe men who pretend friendſhip for you, on your arrival in town, offering to ſhew you about, and give you inſtructions how to behave yourſelves while in London; ſuch are Hangers-on, that will eat and drink with you while you ſtay, but will never offer to pay a farthing; however, in lieu thereof, will tell an indecent ſtory, or ſing you the laſt lewd new ſong they made upon a particular occaſion. Theſe you will eaſily find out, and may as eaſily get rid of, by not treating or encouraging them on your arrival.

HIGHWAYMEN,

IN general, are deſperate and reſolute perſons, who, having ſpent their patrimony, or laviſhed their ſubſtance among whores and gameſters, take to the road, in order to retrieve their broken fortunes, and either recruit them by meeting with a good booty, or elſe finiſh their lives at Tyburn.

They have various ſchemes for carrying on their iniquitous trade, ſuch as feeing hoſtlers, bribing landlords, on the road, for intelligence *of who is worth picking up*, and where countrymen and others are to be met with, &c.

The Highwayman diſmounts at the inn, enquires, of the bar-maid or landlady, what company is in the houſe? On being informed, he either introduces himſelf, or gets the landlord to do it for him, with a pretence of being alone, and ſhould be glad to ſup with them, if agreeable, which is ſeldom refuſed by travellers, not ſuſpecting the purpoſe of the intended viſitant. In the courſe of the evening, the Highwayman, by

by aſking queſtions, making obſervations, and uſing other artifices, in which he is accompliſhed, ſeldom fails of obtaining what he ſought for, a knowledge of the contents of the purſe, which, being pulled out to pay the reckoning, and orders given for his ſetting off in the morning, in ſome ſort gives the Highwayman an idea of the value in it, and whether it will anſwer his purpoſe to obtain the ſame at the hazard of his life *.

The beſt means I can point out to evade the Highwayman is, not to travel by night, and to be cautious of diſplaying money, Bank notes, or other valuables, at the inns you put up at, before the landlord or ſervants; and alſo to be careful what company you join, for fear they learn of you whither you are going, and for what purpoſe; if to pay or receive money, they will certainly way-lay and rob, if not murder you, which may be avoided by a little precaution and prudence, which the foregoing hints will furniſh you with, at a very ſmall expence.

* Other methods they purſue, with different addreſs, as *The Maleſactor's Regiſter, or New Newgate and Tyburn Calendar*, fully evinces, in the lives, trials, and dying ſpeeches of the moſt notorious violators of the laws of their country, who have ſuffered death for the ſame, ſince 1700 to the preſent time, ſufficiently teſtifies; a work calculated to diſplay the conſequence of vice, and the happineſs reſulting from honour and integrity, with convincing proofs of the excellence of our laws for the protection of our lives and properties. It is publiſhing in weekly numbers, at ſix pence each, ornamented with a beautiful ſet of copper-plates. Be careful to obſerve, that all genuine editions of this *New Work*, are dedicated to *Sir John Fielding*, and printed for *Alexander Hogg*.

HOUSE-BREAKERS.

OF all robbers, that can be found, none equals in hardened villainy that of the Houſe-breaker. There's is a ſpecies of robbing ſo dreadful in itſelf, that every caution and precaution, both in town and country, ſhould be taken to guard againſt it. They are the moſt daring and deſperate of all villains, and often commit murder, to accompliſh their nefarious and wicked ſchemes; hundreds of families have been ruined by them, and hundreds of perſons loſt their lives by them, as appears by the Tyburn Calendar. As they know the danger to be great, and the puniſhment, on detection, capital, they generally fix on houſes ſuppoſed to have the greateſt property, or on thoſe the leaſt guarded. Theſe robberies are committed by the following means, either by forcing open the door or window-ſhutter, with an iron crow, or other inſtrument; which might be prevented, by properly ſecuring the windows with a double bar croſſed, and the door with two bolts and a chain, the forcing of which would alarm the neighbourhood. A falſe key is frequently ſubſtituted by them for the true one, and the houſe is robbed without detection; this is generally done in the ſummer time, when the families are out of town, and no ſervant left in the houſe. Another way of breaking houſes is by getting into an empty one, and from thence over the top of the adjoining ones, till they find entrance at the garret windows, where they lie concealed till evening, when they let in their accomplices, and, for better ſecurity, while a part is rifling the houſe, the others are employed, with

with fire arms, to blow out the brains of him or her that dares to ſtir or ſpeak during the robbery. But the moſt daring of all is, impudently knocking at the door, which, when opened, they ruſh in at, knock down and bind all they meet with, ſometimes gag and maim them, and then rifle the houſe of all that is valuable, and walk off without the leaſt remorſe. Two ſhocking inſtances lately occurred, of the wantonneſs and barbarity of theſe deſperate villains, one at a watchmaker's, in or near Moorfields, and the other at a farmer's, on Finchley-common, ſome of the actors in which have been brought to juſtice for the ſame, and it is to be hoped that the remainder will not long eſcape the puniſhment their cruelty and villainy richly deſerves.

The beſt preventatives, I can think of, to ſtop theſe growing evils, and ſleep ſecure and in ſafety, are, to keep your doors and windows properly ſecured, which will prevent the three former complaints, and, as to the laſt, whenever any one knocks by night, to have a chain that will admit of the door's opening, wide enough to make an enquiry, *Who is there?* properly faſtened on the inſide, to prevent their getting in, before you can alarm the family and neighbourhood. In the country a good dog is of great uſe, and deters more Houſe-breakers from attempting their nefarious practices than ſword or gun, nor can I ſee any reaſon why they ſhould not be kept in town for the protection of our houſes, as well as in the country.

JILTS,

ARE ladies of eaſy virtue, who, through an hypocritical ſanctity of manners, and pretenſions to virtue and religion, draw the countryman and inexperienced cit into their clutches. If they grant a favour, it is with ſeeming reluctance, and often followed with tears and repentant ſighs, for their folly and credulity; they will feign an exceſs of paſſion for you, cannot bear the thoughts of parting, ſwear eternal conſtancy, and thereby wheedle you out of a ſettlement, or a ſum ſufficient to live upon. But, alas! no ſooner are you gone, than they jilt you, fly to ſome favourite paramour they are intimate with, and frequently beſtow on him what you beſtowed on them. In this manner they live, by pretending a like unwillingneſs for proſtitution, and a like regard for every freſh cully. As they have more art than the ſtreet-walker, and more cant and cunning than the chamber whore, they generally get better paid, and appear more decent and circumſpect at the Theatres and public places they frequent. Notwithſtanding their duplicity to their keepers, and the favourite of their leiſure moments, they pretend to be jealous, can faint, and havefits upon occaſion, nay miſcarry, rather than loſe a trifling preſent of a few hundreds, promiſed on their being pregnant; and ſhould that really be the caſe, they give themſelves more airs, expect more attendance, and better accommodations, than would ſatisfy three or four prudent and virtuous wives upon the ſame occaſion; nor will ſuch a one ſcruple to tell you ſhe expects more obſervance than if ſhe were your wife; intimating

mating how my Lord ſuch-a-one provided for his miſtreſs and children, and that ſhe has a right to expect the ſame; in ſhort, there is no end to their wants and impertinencies, their tricks and impoſitions, until they have either ruined you, or you detected them, which they frequently give you an opportunity of doing; for having got all they can from you, they grow tired of your company and converſe, and are heartily glad to get rid of you.

Surely all the vices and follies of the ſex center in the Jilt; devoid of generoſity, and the feelings of humanity, ſhe preys on all ſhe meets, and jilts all ſhe preys on. Her tongue, fraught with guile and deception, wheedles you out of your ſenſes and property, till having no more to laviſh on her, ſhe treats you with inſolence and diſdain, and, like poor *Barnwell*, if you have acted imprudently, will be a *Millwood* to compleat the cataſtrophe, and hang you. Of all whores the Jilt is moſt to be avoided; for knowing more than others, ſhe is more capable of doing greater miſchief, and therefore I caution you againſt her.

INTELLIGENCERS.

PERSONS may be ſo ſtiled who keep ſtatute halls, and offices of intelligence, where maſters and miſtreſſes may hear of ſervants, and ſervants of places. There is not, in this metropolis, a more flagrant and barefaced cheat practiced than by theſe fellows, who, in general, are very illiterate, not worth a groat, and having lived a looſe diſorderly life, ſet up this trade, in order to impoſe upon the ignorant country man

and maid, by pretending to help them to places of every kind, of which the exiſtence is only in idea. Many of theſe Intelligencers are actual bullies to bawds, and old procurers for debilitated nobility, who are employed to ſeek for young country girls, and are placed there for the infamous purpoſe of decoying them to the brothels of ſeduction. And I am bold to ſay, that ſcores of ſuch girls have been robbed of their innocence and virtue by means of the Intelligencer's recommendation to the ſiſterhood, to whom theſe unexperienced creatures are ſent.

I would therefore adviſe my country readers not to make any application to theſe Intelligencers for places, who frequently keep people for a month, and put them to daily expences, without the leaſt probability of doing them ſervice, or, ſhould they recommend them, it is to the pimp, bawd, or procureſs, for the purpoſes above hinted at, and which generally terminates in the ruin of the appliant, to the great mortification of her parents, and diſgrace of an honeſt induſtrious family.

INSOLVENTS.

SINCE the act for the relief of inſolvent debtors has taken place, calculated for the benefit and advantage of thoſe who were by mercileſs and hard-hearted creditors kept confined in jail, many wicked and deſigning perſons have availed themſelves of it, in order to cheat and defraud the fair trader, and their creditors in general, by various arts and ſtratagems, ſuch as getting themſelves arreſted on a friendly action, while the act is in contemplation, confiſcating and

and making away with their property, making nominal deeds of gift, antedating bonds and ſureties, in order to render unſuſpected the oaths required on their examination, preparatory to their enlargement, which, as well as many other atrocious practices, call aloud for reprehenſion and premonition.

I remember, on the firſt act's paſſing for the above purpoſe, there was no diſtinction made between thoſe who had been in jail a twelvemonth, and thoſe only for a day, all were releaſed alike, and hundreds threw themſelves into priſon on the occaſion; who, by the aſſiſtance of a compelling creditor, expunged all their debts, and returned from priſon thoroughly *white-waſhed*, which was effected in the following manner:—The priſoner gave a note of hand, dated two or three years back, for a certain ſum, payable in ſo many months, long paſt, to the compelling creditor, which was ſworn to by him to be a juſt one, and by that means the Inſolvent obtained his liberty. Shoe-blacks, chimney-ſweepers, and duſtmen, for the ſake of a few ſhillings, undertook this dirty work, and, by their means, many hundred families were reduced in circumſtances, and brought to ruin and diſtreſs, by the cheats practiſed on them by thoſe who took the benefit of that act; ſince which time a limitation has been made for the priſoner's being in actual confinement for a ſtipulated time, before a day mentioned in the act, by means of which the above complained of fraud, has in ſome ſort been fruſtrated, but never ſo effectually as in the act of laſt year. Many, on the report of the act's taking place, threw themſelves into priſon, in hopes to be made partakers thereof, living luxuri-

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ouſly while their money laſted, the better to defraud their creditors, when, to their mortification and aſtoniſhment, an amendment was made therein, by the wiſdom and diſcernment of the Lords, who perceived the abuſe intended, that no one ſhould be cleared that had not abſolutely been in cuſtody, or held to bail, before a prior day to that at firſt mentioned in the bill.

Many came out of priſon diſappointed, others had detainers lodged againſt them, and ſome, having ſpent their all, were kept for their fees; thus the cheats of a modern day have happily once been fruſtrated in their attempts at fraud and deception; this is the deſerved fate of thoſe who ſtrive to injure and deceive the honeſt and induſtrious.

There are now living Inſolvents, that have made a trade of getting into priſon, and cheating their creditors, every time an act has paſt for the relief of debtors. Such men ſhould be pointed out, and held up to view, as common robbers of mankind, that the merchants and dealers might be aware of them, and prevent their further proceedings in this buſineſs, by withholding credit from all ſuch known defaulters as they are.

KIDNAPPERS.

A SET of men of abandoned principles, who, having laviſhed away their fortunes, enter into the pay of the Eaſt-India Company in order to recruit the army; and, in the time of war, when a guinea or two is advertiſed to be given to any perſon that brings a proper young man, of five feet eight or nine inches high, theſe kidnappers

nappers lay in wait, at different places of rendezvous, in order to entrap them for the money.

Some of theſe gentry, aſſume the characters of officers, others of ſerjeants, drummers, and recruits, without the ſhadow of a commiſſion amongſt them. They have many ways of inveigling the heedleſs and unthinking countryman, on his arrival, to their houſes, about Charing-croſs and the eaſtern parts of the town. One or two of theſe Kidnappers dreſs as countrymen, go five or ſix miles out of town in order to meet the waggons and ſtages, and enquire if John ſuch-a-one is come up, which is anſwered in the negative, no ſuch perſon being known; they then enter into diſcourſe with the countrymen, aſk them if they will walk to London, being but a ſhort way off, otherwiſe they will go their way, and, being complaiſant, engage the countrymen's attention, who join in converſation, and, by that time they get to London, learn their occupations and buſineſs to town, whether they are in ſearch of places, trades, or intend to return home again, which intelligence they generally profit by. Coming to the place of rendezvous, the Kidnappers propoſe a pint of porter, which being agreed on, they enter the houſe where their companions are in waiting, enjoying themſelves over flowing bowls, and exhilarating their ſpirits with loyal toaſts and ſongs, giving the punch round without exception, inviting the countrymen, and pretended friends, to partake of the repaſt; which accepted, the Kidnappers begin their buſineſs, by enquiring who is willing to ſerve his Majeſty. The countryman, if inclined thereto, is generally deceived; if his deſire is for the guards, or any other particular regiment, there

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are mock ſerjeants and privates at hand, to ſwear that they belong thereto, and ſo of other regiments; when the fact really is, they are trepanned for the Eaſt-Indies, hurried on board a ſhip, or kept in ſome diſmal place of ſecurity, till a ſufficient number is collected, and an opportunity ſerves to ſend them away.

On the other hand, ſhould the countrymen be averſe to enliſting, and talk of going away, there are enough to ſwear they have received a ſhilling, or more, in part of bounty-money, and others to prove it, by inſiſting they ſaw them put the money in ſuch or ſuch a pocket. The countryman denies his receiving it; but on ſearch, the money is found, and he obliged to ſubmit, or pay the ſmart; by this means many are daily hurried away from their friends and families, without their inclination, to the ruin of numbers, by theſe ravenous kites, that prey upon the ignorance and eaſy diſpoſition of the unſuſpecting countryman.

Every one that has a regard for himſelf and liberty ſhould avoid them; which may be eaſily done, by not entering into converſe with them, or joining with any ſtrangers in public-houſes, particularly places of rendezvous, which may be known by two or three of the red coat Kidnappers lurking about the doors.

LOTTERY OFFICE KEEPERS.

FOR ſeveral years paſt Lottery Office Keepers have had an ample ſhare in impoſing on the town, and cheating the country, by vending books, handkerchiefs, and other things of little value, with ſhares of tickets, ſaid to be impend-

impending, or then drawing in the State Lottery, with a note of hand, importing, that if No. 45 ſhould be drawn a prize of 20,000£. the bearer of that ticket would be intitled to 50£. and ſo for other prizes in proportion; by this means thouſands were cheated in a bare-faced manner, (ſuch an itch has the world for gambling), and paid thrice the value for the commodity they purchaſed, being allured by the hopes of a prize in the lottery.

When the drawing of the lottery has begun, the lower claſs of people, who were concerned in the above ſchemes for enriching themſelves, would quit their labour and induſtry, and repair to Guildhall, to be preſent at the drawing, in expectation of every number called being theirs, when it was twenty thouſand to one of their getting a prize of 10£. Some few have been ſo lucky as to get the 20,000£. and 10,000£. but I never knew that they received the ſum ſtipulated for payment, in the promiſſory note given for that purpoſe. On the contrary, I have ſeen the Office Keeper's windows and ſhops demoliſhed, by a deluded and juſtly enraged mob, who have been ruined by the purchaſe of tickets, ſhares, chances, and inſurances thereon.

Some Office Keepers have, a day or two before the finiſhing the drawing, ſhut up their ſhops and decamped, for fear of being brought to account for the cheats and roguery they had practiſed on the ignorant and unthinking. The countryman, hearing that he had a prize in the lottery, has haſtened up to town, at no ſmall expence, to receive the money due thereon; when, to his great ſorrow, there was no Keeper to be found,

found, but, as ſome alleviation of his grief, he ſaw hundreds deceived as well as himſelf.

To ſuch an height were theſe Lottery Offices (as they called them) carried, that you might purchaſe ſhares and chances at ſix pence a-piece, an inſtance of one of them is worth obſerving: An advertiſement appeared in the Morning Chronicle, intimating that ſhares and chances were to be diſpoſed of at Fuller's Eating-houſe, in Wych-ſtreet, and tickets inſured; that whoſoever bought ſix pennyworth of beef, would be preſented with a ticket, and a note of hand to receive the ſums inſerted therein, if the number of the ticket was drawn a prize of 20,000£. &c. and they told you, that this was the moſt rational of all ſchemes hitherto projected, as the purchaſer, at leaſt, would have, for his ſix-pence, three pennyworth of meat, beſides a chance in the Lottery.

Notwithſtanding the law has taken every precaution to guard againſt the itinerant cheats who keep Lottery Offices, yet ways are, and always will be, found to evade it. Therefore let me diſſuade the countryman, and others, from adventuring at this loſing game, as it is at beſt, there being better than two to one againſt you in the State Lottery, and more than fifty to one againſt your getting any thing from ſuch as I have already deſcribed.

MOCK AUCTIONEERS.

THESE people are as arrant cheats as the former; and though they practiſe, in the way of deluſion, without honour or honeſty, yet pretend to both; they open ſhops, obtain goods from brokers, pawns, and other things of little value,

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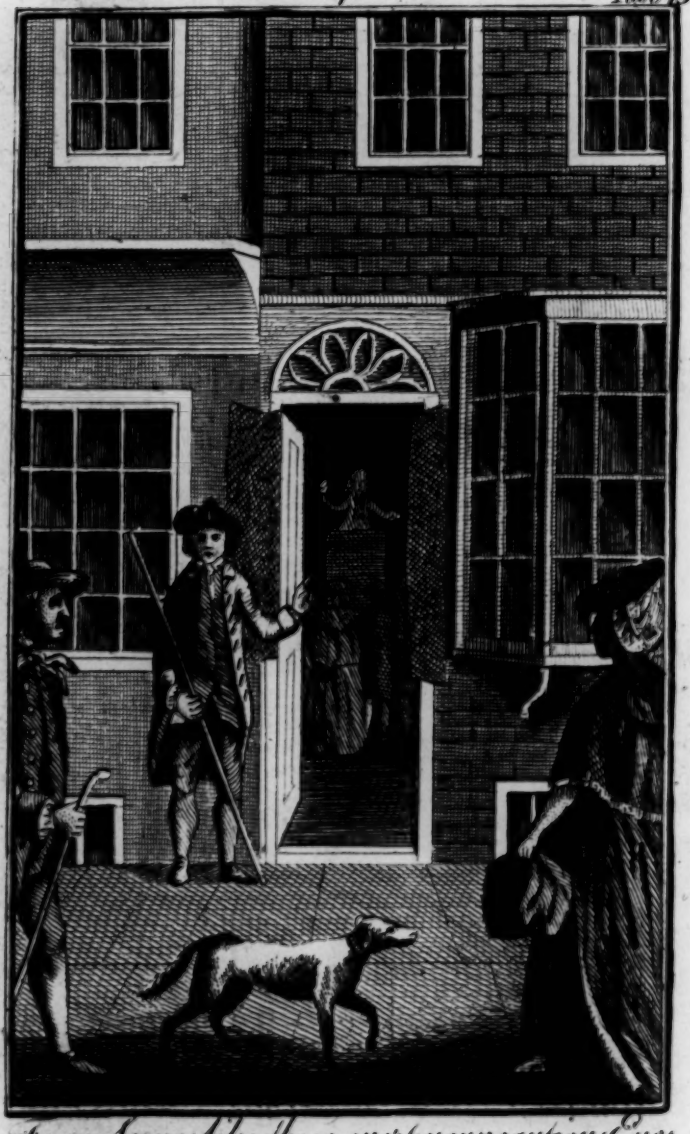

From Scenes like these avert your cautious Eyes,
Beneath their specious forms much Knavry lies;
Nor listen when he calls, Walk in, Walk in,
A Sale of Goods just going to begin!

value, which they get puffers to ſet off, and bid for as valuable. You may know theſe ſhops and warehouſes, by a piece of carpeting, and catalogues of articles they never had in poſſeſſion, pinned thereon, with a man and ragged ſtaff placed at the door, who invites you with, *Pleaſe to walk in, all ſorts of goods ſelling here by auction.* When you enter, ſomething is put up, which the Mock Gentleman Auctioneer may gueſs you are in want of, and, after expatiating largely on it's goodneſs, hands it round to his auditors, among whom are many puffers, or ſet bidders, placed in order to enhance the value of his commodity, by bringing it up to a ſtandard, as they call it, that is, near to it's value, always leaving room for the countryman to bid, which done, down goes the hammer, and you are fixed as the purchaſer.

There are ſo many Mock Auctions, and ſo many cheats practiſed thereat, that it is impoſſible to ſet forth, in this little work, a tenth part of the roguery with which they abound; however, as the foregoing is amongſt the moſt notorious, ſhall content myſelf, for the preſent, with obſerving, that they and their arts ought to be avoided by my country friends, if they have reſolution to withſtand their temptation, and refuſe the hand bills for purchaſing cheap bargains at their auctions. Let me recommend my reader to the fair trader, whoſe character and goods will ſtand the teſt of examination, who is ſettled in his ſhop or warehouſe, and which you may know again, by being well uſed and civilly treated. Theſe, and theſe only, are the people I can with ſafety propoſe to you, on whom, when more acquainted, you will place intire confidence in;

whoſe uprightneſs gives a ſanction to their dealings, and ſeldom fails of acquiring them an affluent fortune.

MONEY-DROPPERS.

THESE gentry generally ply at the moſt public places in town, and alſo at fairs and country markets, conſiſting of three or more in company. The dropping of money is the lure to inveigle countrymen into company, and is accompliſhed in the following manner; the Dropper, when conveniency ſuits, lays down a guinea, or other piece of money, cloſe to the countryman, then, in a voice of exultation, exclaims, I have found a guinea; upon which a ſecond comes up, and ſays, Where is it? or, I'll not believe it; Here it is, cries the former, and appeals to the countryman for the truth of his picking it up; who anſwering in the affirmative, the ſecond claims a ſhare, as they were in company together, upon which the firſt retorts, if any body has a right to a ſhare, it muſt be the countryman, who ſaw it on the ground as well as himſelf; by this time they are arrived at a houſe of reſort, and the Dropper propoſes giving them a treat out of it, if they will walk in, intimating, at the ſame time, that he intends to conſider the countryman as a party concerned, and who has a right to a ſhare thereof; this bait taking, in they go, obſerved by the third, who hitherto has taken no notice of the others, they call for a room, and ſomething to drink. The Dropper then aſks the countryman if he has gotten any ſilver in change for the guinea, and, according to his anſwer, they order their matters; while they are engaged

gaged in ſharing the money, the third enters, who ſits down, without ſeeming to know any one preſent, or their buſineſs. On the Dropper's ſaying he will go out to get change, the ſecond replies, It is ſcarce worth while for ſeven ſhillings, and, ſeeing a pack of cards on the chimney-piece, propoſes cutting them for the ſum, which the other accepts; the ſecond loſes, and the countryman is aſked, if he will riſk his ſeven ſhillings, who, thinking that he can be nothing out of pocket if he loſes, accepts the challenge, and wins two or three times, till a game of whilſt is propoſed, and agreed to, if a fourth could be found. The pretended ſtranger ſays, if they will accept of a bad player, rather than ſpoil ſport, he will make one; the Dropper and countryman agree to be partners, down they ſit, the countryman and partner are ſucceſsful, they wager on the odd trick, the beſt trump, double and treble the ſtakes, till, by ſad reverſe of fortune, the deluded countryman and his artful partner are ſtripped of the laſt farthing.

The above is the moſt general practice of the Money-Droppers, in which they have been ſucceſsful, however they have many other ways of tricking the countryman, at cards or dice, huſſling in the hat, producing or ſhewing moſt money, with which they ſet off, and, if other matters fail, knocking the party down and rifling his pockets. To avoid ſtrange company in London, much leſs game with them, is the only way to eſcape danger, therefore I adviſe country people not to be ſeen amongſt them, or enticed with their pretences of finding money, and making them partakers thereof.

RING-DROPPERS.

THESE are a ſet of cheats who frequently trick ſimple people, both from the country and in London, out of their money, but moſt commonly exerciſe their villainous art upon young women. Their method is, privately to drop a ring juſt before ſuch perſons come up, when they accoſt them thus: Young woman, I have found a ring, and believe it is gold, for here is a ſtamp upon it: Immediately upon this, an accomplice joins him, who being aſked the queſtion, replies, It is gold: Well, ſays the former, as the young woman ſaw me pick it up, ſhe has a right to half of it. As it often happens that the young perſon has but a few ſhillings about her, the ſharper ſays, if you have a mind for the ring, you ſhall have it for what you have got in your pocket, and what elſe you can give me, which ſometimes proves to be a good handchief, cloak, or other apparel. The young woman being then juſt about to take the ring, and give the money and things for it, the accomplice ſays, you had better aſk a goldſmith, if it is gold; but looking about, he perceives the ſhops are ſhut up, it being night, upon which they conclude it is good, and ſo part. The deluded creature then ſhews the ring to a perſon in the ſtreet, who informs her ſhe is cheated by ſharpers, for the ring is not worth two pence, being only braſs gilt, and a falſe ſtamp put on to deceive the unwary. The beſt way to prevent the depredations of theſe artful villains is, to ſhun them intirely, and have nothing to ſay to them, by way of parly, or any other ſtrangers in the pub-

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lic ſtreet, for ſome of that ſharping ſtamp are always lying in wait to deceive and plunder the unwary. The above relation is a fact, and the fraud was practiſed by theſe peſtilent harpies on a young woman with whom the writer is well acquainted.

PIMPS.

THESE are a ſet of deſpicable wretches, generally compoſed of French cooks, barbers and valets, who come over from France, pretend to have been well bred, of an ancient and honourable family, but, through the miſconduct of their parents, who have killed their men in duels, or, being deſcended from proteſtants, have been perſecuted on account of religion, and obliged to take ſhelter in this land of liberty. By theſe and ſuch like falſe means, they ſeldom fail to recommend themſelves to our young nobility and gentry; intimating, at the ſame time, that there is no taſk, however difficult, but they will undertake, to give pleaſure and delight to their employers. That they have had the honour of bringing my Lord Duke acquainted with ſeveral of the moſt accompliſhed belles in Paris, with whom they are upon the very beſt terms, and for which they have been liberally rewarded for their ſervices.

My Lord underſtanding their meaning, takes them into his ſuite, and being convinced of their utility by their obſequiouſneſs, immediately employs them as Pimps, in which capacity they excel all others. There is generally one, if not more, of theſe gentry employed by our modern nobility, in making the tour of Italy, who is

imported, on their return, among other exotic fopperies, and new faſhioned vices, in order to compleat the train of our Engliſh Maccaronies.

There is no meanneſs but they will undergo; they will fawn and kiſs the hand that in an angry mood, or on a trivial occaſion, ſlaps their faces, or the foot that kicks them down ſtairs; and often provoke the ſame, in order to make a merit of their pacific diſpoſition and forgiving temper, the better to inſtate themſelves in the good graces of their maſters, and be rewarded for their obſequiouſneſs.

Theſe caterers of vice, after having made a fortune in his lordſhip's family, which they generally do by one means or another, ſet up for men of faſhion, and get themſelves introduced into reputable merchants and tradeſmen's families, and ſometimes marry heireſſes with large fortunes, which, in ſome ſort, accounts for the preſent degenerate race of Maccaronies, who appear to be of a ſpurious puny breed. My Lady's affection for Monſieur is evident from my young Lord's likeneſs unto him; for he acts in a double capacity, pimps for the father, and gallants with the mother; gets his Lordſhip an aſſignation at one place, and meets my Lady at another. So provident is Monſieur in his amours, that his employment is not ſuſpected by her Ladyſhip, nor his intrigue diſcovered by his Lordſhip.

Shew me an Engliſhman that can act this part ſo well; I believe not one is to be found, though the moſt hardened villain, that would ſtoop to ſuch a meanneſs as to procure his own wife for his employer, which was very recently done, by a Frenchman, not far from Golden Square, and which happened as follows:

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Being ſent out by his lordſhip, to get him a country girl for amorous dalliance, he viſited thoſe houſes where generally they are decoyed to on their arrival in town, but his ſearch was without ſucceſs; knowing his lordſhip's taſte and wants, and obſerving that he had viewed Madamoiſelle his wife with great attention, thought he could not confer a greater obligation on his lordſhip, or better ſhew his zeal to ſerve him, than by making him an offer of his *caro ſpoſa*. Accordingly he went home, told his wife his lordſhip deſired to ſee her, and ſhe muſt go immediately, and recommended to her to demean herſelf civilly, as it was in his lordſhip's power to do them much good. The wife, ſtruck with horror at the thought, and more ſo as her huſband recommended the unnatural proceeding, remonſtrated with him on the heinouſneſs of the crime, but to no purpoſe; he was reſolute, and nothing would ſatisfy him but her compliance with his lordſhip's will. Having formed a reſolution, away ſhe goes to the place appointed, where his lordſhip was in waiting for her, but was greatly ſhocked on his faithful Pimp's informing him, that it was his own dear wife he preſented him with, and preſently afterwards withdrew. The poor woman, who was neither old nor ugly, in an agony of deſpair, fell down on her knees, and begged his lordſhip's protection from the vileſt of creatures, and to ſecure her honour from violation. His lordſhip, fired with a noble reſentment at the intended villainy, and abject meanneſs of the raſcally Pimp, deſired her to riſe, and be aſſured of his protection; upon which ſhe related a cruel ſcene that happened, before ſhe could be induced to appear before his lordſhip, having been, by her mercileſs huſband,

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moſt cruelly beat, for not conſenting to his intended proſtitution. His lordſhip aſked in what way he could ſerve her? ſhe told him by ſupplying her with the means of returning to Paris, where her parents lived in repute, and who, on hearing the ſhameful ſtory, would give her ſuccour and protection; being determined, if poſſible, never to ſee or ſpeak with the vile wretch her huſband any more.

His lordſhip accordingly made her an handſome preſent and ſent her home, and ordered his officious Pimp to be kicked out of doors, for the infamous offer made him of his wife.

Monſieur, at preſent, is in the employ of a noted Procureſs in the neighbourhood, and is very aſſiduous in the ſeduction of virtue and innocence, way-laying and trepanning country girls on their arrival in town, with profeſſions of being ſtruck at firſt ſight with their beauty, and talking of recommending them to his lady, who wants a country maid, hints they may be better acquainted in time, upon which he gives them a direction to the Procureſs, of which I ſhall further ſpeak under that head, and give a more general caution thereon.

PROCURERS AND PROCURESSES.

THESE are ſuch men and women as are employed in procuring innocent young creatures for debauched devotees; under the former head the Pimp may be conſidered, of whom I have juſt ſpoken, therefore ſhall confine myſelf to the other ſex, who, if poſſible, are more pernicious than the men, and more barbarous and cruel in their modes of proceeding.

Procureſſes

Procureſſes are frequenters of the church, tavern, and play-houſes, and are to be met with at the jelly-houſes, milliners, perfume ſhops, at balls, aſſemblies, and maſquerades, in different forms, and different ſtations of life. Some of them enſnare youth, by promiſing them, if they will attend at their houſes, to procure the youth an angel of a woman, a relation of her own, who is that very day arrived in London, in the height of youth and beauty, whoſe charms are to the laſt degree engaging and attracting. By ſuch like ſpeeches they work upon young men, until they have rouſed their paſſions, and ſet their blood in a ferment, of which they take advantage to make a bargain, when, in the prodigality of their flame, without conſideration, they ſubmit to her terms, which generally ends in their ruin.

The Procureſs is a very induſtrious woman, who is always employed in her vile trade of picking up countrymen for old ſtales, or countrywomen for old lechers; and, upon this account, ſhe is to be met with at the inns where coaches and machines put up, and, during the ſeaſon, at Ranalagh, Vauxhall, Smith's Gardens, and other places of diverſion and recreation, having no leſs than ſeveral ſcore of Dukes, Lords, Knights, and Eſquires to provide for againſt winter, which, ſhe whiſpers the fair one, will ſett up their ladies an equigage a-piece, and make them ſettlements, that will ſet them on a footing with the firſt ladies of diſtinction in the land; obſerving that the Duke of G———'s kept miſtreſs lives in as much ſplendor as her Grace, and more careſſed by half. And ſuch good fortune ſhe can promiſe any young woman, if ſhe is but poſſeſſed of half the charms, wit, and ſpritelineſs of Miſs C——,

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the milliner, or Miſs T———, the mantua-maker; for ſhe had heard his lordſhip ſay a thouſand times, he ſhould like ſuch a-one, with ſuch features as Miſs P——, or this young lady, whom I have not the happineſs to know. Upon which ſhe invites them to tea at her hotel; if it rains, to take a part in her coach, or accept a place in the boat, and, by mere dint of chit-chat and cunning, gains intelligence of the unguarded fair one's family, connexions, and place of reſidence, which ſhe ſeldom fails to turn to advantage by one ſtratagem or another. Sometimes ſhe ſends my lord to the ſhop to purchaſe linen, which is to be carried by Miſs to the Procureſs's, where ſhe is betrayed into a compliance, or otherwiſe forced, and then ſoothed with promiſes, till ſhe conſents to a repetition of the crime that proves her diſgrace and ruin.

Among many other arts practiſed by the Procureſs, that of advertiſing has proved ſucceſsful; but nothing more ſo than the way-laying country girls at inns, and on the road to London, hiring them as ſervants, and confining them in brothels, till ſhe has either perſuaded, or ſtarved them out of their virtue and honour.

How cautious it behoves mankind to be, who wiſh to ſteer through life with virtue and honour; how careful of the paths they purſue, the acquaintance they make, and the company they engage in: One ſlip from virtue condemns their fame, and, too often, begets a ſecond, and ſo *ad infinitum*. Therefore let me diſſuade my female, as well as male readers, from giving a looſe to the fopperies and pleaſures of this deluding town, from entering the gay circles of life, without friends to conduct them in ſafety

from

from the public places of reſort. Let me warn my country readers of the danger of frequenting our Theatres alone; for without guides they are liable to be enſnared by the Procurer and Procureſs, as well as the Rake and Whore. But at the Playhouſes, as well as at other public places their curioſity may lead them to, let me once more warn them to ſhun the company and converſation of the impertinent and officious, who have ſome deſign or other upon you, which, if accompliſhed, will tend to your mortification, if not diſgrace.

PRETENDED FRIENDS

ARE many and dangerous, who profeſs ſincerity, and regard for you and your welfare, in the ſtrongeſt terms, proffering ſervices, and tendering obligations, until they have brought you to believe their profeſſions to be the reſult of a good heart, actuated by no views but that of rendering you happy, and giving themſelves the pleaſure of contributing thereto; thus having ingratiated themſelves into your good opinion, the better to get poſſeſſion of your property, they then throw off the maſk, and appear in their proper colours, more diſguſting than the knave that cheats you and makes a merit of it, or the ſharper that over-reaches you, and laughs at your credulity.

Pretended Friends are only to be outweighed in villany by the murderer and black aſſaſſin, who ſtab you in the dark to obtain your purſe; but the Pretended Friend, under the mask of friendſhip, is leading you to ruin, and, while he partakes

takes of your kindneſs, is plotting ſchemes for your undoing.

Knaves and Cheats may in ſome reſpects be avoided, but how are you to guard againſt a falſe Friend, whoſe ſolemn proteſtations and faithfulneſs on all occaſions you have ſo long looked upon as a mirror of virtue? and how greatly muſt you be affected, on his diſcovering himſelf void of conſcience, honour, or even common honeſty? His villainous artifices are intolerable, and, for his ſake, one may be almoſt induced to diveſt the human mind of charity for others. He may be juſtly ſaid to be a ſnake in the boſom, that was cheriſhed with the vital heat from a generous and expanded heart, till he had recovered from the frigid ſtate in which he was found almoſt expiring; in requital for returning life he gives death; for enlivening balm, deadly poiſon.

Theſe pretended Friends are the greateſt cowards exiſting; for, by their diſguiſing the true ſtate of the heart, they have opportunities of doing more miſchief than any other criminals in the univerſe. Having wormed themſelves into your ſecrets and confidence, they betray and deceive you at pleaſure, without ſuſpicion, or giving intimation of the ſame, while you are lulled, unconſcious of the guile intended, in peace and ſecurity, until the ſtorm, like a clap of thunder, breaks unawares upon you; then, alas! you find the folly of truſting pretended Friends, and the miſchiefs occaſioned thereby.

He that ſo late was all kind and courteous, is now arrogant and overbearing; he that uſed to ſupplicate, now commands, and treats you with vile abuſe; ſad memento of truſting to the exceſſive

ceſſive regard pretended for your intereſt, when fatal experience convinces you of your fond credulity, and the black perfidy of your pretended Friend.

I do not know any evil but what is more eaſily to be avoided than that of pretended Friendſhip; the pretender always affecting modeſty, though he generally is poſſeſſed of the moſt conſummate effrontery, which he artfully veils under the cloak of hypocriſy, and, by theſe means, plays off his knavery, to the ruin of the deluded who put confidence in him. It is neceſſary therefore to be cautious who you truſt with your ſecrets and affairs, and to be watchful of your words and actions, that nought eſcapes you that may be laid hold of by your pretended Friend, in order to take advantage of your communicative temper, and bring you to ſhame or ruin.

PICKPOCKETS.

THERE are more Pickpockets in and about London than in all Europe beſide, that make a trade, and what they call a comfortable living, by their employment. The opera, play-houſes, capital auctions, and public gardens ſwarm with them, and, of late years, they have introduced themſeves into our very churches, in which they have not been leſs ſucceſsful at a charity ſermon preached by a Milne, Herries, Romaine, and other noted orators, than at the Theatres at a benefit, when the principal parts have been played by a Garrick, Yates, Henderſon, Barry, King, Abingdon, and other firſt rate performers. The noted Barrington, who was at laſt detected in picking pockets in St. Sepulchre's church, and for which

he was conſigned to his old trade of ballaſt-heaving on the Thames, was not more compleat therein, or more notorious, than the accompliſhed Miſs Weſt, in the avenues leading to the Theatres, who has *as dextrous a hand for picking a pocket* as any one in England, notwithſtanding her recent commitment to Bridewell for the ſame; Barrington, I think, from the time of his releaſement from the Thames, (on remitting a part of his ſentence for former crimes) was about two months before retaken for the like offence above ſtated; Miſs Weſt, ſcarce ſix weeks from her releaſement from Newgate, was, by her induſtrious application to buſineſs, brought before Sir John Fielding, and committed to her old place of confinement.

To ſet forth the different ways by which they ſucceed in their nefarious practices, is beyond my ability; therefore I ſhall only obſerve, that in general two go together, one before and the other behind the perſon whoſe pocket is to be picked, the former of which ſtops the perſon, either in a croud, or by a pretended accident, while the other effects the buſineſs. Therefore it would be prudent, when in crouds, to keep one hand on your money, and the other on your watch, when you find any one puſh againſt you; but, ſhould you be robbed for want of taking proper care to prevent the ſame, take no notice till you ſee ſome perſon near you ſtealing away, when you are to ſecure him or her, and ten to one but you fix on the right perſon; you muſt however be careful to lay hold of their hands, for fear of their conveying your property to an accomplice, who is always ready to receive the ſame, and ſet off with it.

Some

Some pickpockets are very dextrous in this way, by introducing their hands, without being perceived, into the very bottom of the breeches pocket, and taking out the money; none was more ſo than the abovementioned Miſs Weſt; others in introducing their hands up ladies petticoats, taking hold of the pocket, and making an inciſion with a knife or ſcizzars, and letting out the contents into their hands without diſcovery, which they immediately deliver to their aſſociates without ſtirring from the place, the better to prevent detection.

Pickpockets do not confine themſelves to London, but travel all over the country, to fairs and races, and are to be met with on the ſtands, and in the booths, to the coſt of many gentlemen and others, who have loſt purſes, watches, rings, and pocket-books, of which they never after received any account. Pocket-books are only ſecure in the inſide pockets, and the coat buttoned; watch-chains ſhould be run through a ſmall loop contrived for the purpoſe of ſecuring the watch in the fob, of which I have ſeen many. But, at theſe public places, it is neceſſary for all perſons to be upon their guard, as they cannot be ignorant of the gentry they have amongſt them, from the many loſſes and complaints made of and ſuſtained by them.

QUACKS.

THESE are a ſet of vile wretches, who pretend to be verſed in phyſic and ſurgery, without education, or even the knowledge of a common recipe. Many of them, having ſpent ſome years in an apothecary's ſhop, and been

uſed to carry out medicines, ſet up for themſelves, to cure a certain diſorder, by which they ruin the health and conſtitution of thoſe unhappy countrymen and others that fall into their clutches. If they think the patients are able to pay handſomely, they make them believe their caſe is deſperate, and, by continuing them under their care longer than neceſſary, generally turn them out much worſe than they took them in, or, at beſt, but patch them up for a while; and every body of experience muſt know that ſuch a pretended cure is more pernicious than the diſorder itſelf, as it is the means of bringing on a worſe and more fatal one.

The daily puffs and hand bills diſtributed in the papers, and at the corner of almoſt every ſtreet in London, methinks, ſhould be ſufficient to warn every prudent perſon from believing their aſſertions, of curing almoſt all diſorders by a ſingle medicine, if he conſiders that there are not two conſtitutions alike, and therefore what might be efficacious to one, might ruin the other. But there is a fatality, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, that hangs about the unthinking countryman, on his arrival at London, of firſt viſiting the houſes of ill fame, and afterwards the Quacks, and both of them for cheapneſs. He may contract a diſeaſe for two ſhillings and ſix pence, as well as for five pounds; but he cannot be cured by the Quack for the former ſum, and, unleſs in deſperate caſes, the regular bred doctor or ſurgeon will not charge him the latter. But the fact is, he being aſhamed to make his caſe known to the faculty, and afraid of being put to greater expence, applies to different Quacks, until he has paid five times the ſum for which he might

might have been cured, had he made a proper application to a ſurgeon at firſt, but, as the caſe now ſtands, it is ten to one if he is cured at laſt.

The Quacks that travel about the country, under the denomination of Mountebank Doctors, and wheedle the deluded multitude with worm-cakes for children, and ſticking-plaiſters for corns, &c. are the cauſe of much miſchief, and ſend many children to the church yard, through their quackeries and the credulity of the mothers, are equally to be avoided.

Therefore I wiſh my readers in general, in caſe of ſickneſs of any kind, to apply to the faculty, who have had a liberal education, and practice joined to experience and fair characters, to ſupport their ſtation in life, without which no man is to be truſted.

RECEIVERS OF STOLEN GOODS.

THE old proverb is ſtrictly true, which affirms, *There would be no Thieves, if there were no Receivers of ſtolen Goods.* The many recent complaints made at the public offices of juſtice, the many detections and proſecutions carried on againſt theſe gentry, from day to day, are almoſt without end. As this is a ſpecies of villainy well known in the metropolis, and it's environs, I can throw little new light upon it, except by a few obſervations that occur from ſome late mal-practices, inveſtigated by Sir John Fielding, at the Public Office, in Bow Street, which do honour to his profeſſion as a juſtice, and his knowledge and underſtanding as a man verſed in the laws of his country.

A few days ago, amongſt other offenders brought before him, was an eminent tradeſman of Holborn, for the above offence, who, upon like occaſions, had before been a viſitant at that bar, but, for want of ſufficient proofs, had the good fortune to eſcape. As an account of the whole tranſaction would take up more of this little book than I can ſpare, I ſhall briefly lay before my readers a ſhort detail thereof:

Four notorious thieves, among whom was *Flint*, lately diſcharged from on board the Juſtitia hulk at Woolwich, having received his majeſty's free pardon, for ſtealing a pair of diamond ear-rings from a Mr. Cox, refiner, in Little Britain, ſet up his old trade again, under the appearance of a ſword cutler, which was his original profeſſion. He inſtructed two boys in the art of thieving; the method taught them was, to ſtop boys in the ſtreets, who were ſent out with parcels, and to get the ſame from them, either by telling them to go on a meſſage for them, while they hold their parcels, or by treating them with liquor, and, in the mean time, convey their prizes to Mr. *Flint*, who had a convenient *Lock* to depoſit them in. Several felonies being proved, and the articles found at Mr. P——'s, gave not only ſuſpicion but good grounds for taking him up, the thieves depoſing they had ſold the ſame to him under price; upon which the proſecutors were bound over againſt the priſoners for divers felonies, and *Flint* and his friend P—— as receivers, and accordingly they were all committed to take their trials.

There are many beſide Mr. P——, in this city, that encourage thieves, nay, that keep them in pay when out of employ, and deduct the ſame out

out of the next good bargain they meet with. Chick-lane, Rag-fair, and the Tower hamlets, are full of theſe pretty broker's ſhops, where you may diſpoſe of your ill gotten goods, without being aſked that neceſſary queſtion, "How came "you by them?" Other parts of the town are not without their ſhare of Receivers of ſtolen Goods, who make a trade of it, to the detriment of the fair trader, as well as of the perſons robbed, and thus ſupply theſe infamous ſhopkeepers with articles of every denomination; for which diabolical proceedings, ſhould juſtice take place, they will be rewarded with an halter.

It is a great pity no method can be found to put a ſtop to this illicit trade, now carrying on, with univerſal ſucceſs, to the ruin of hundreds. The proviſion made by law for theſe offenders is very ſufficient on detection, but the mode of detecting them is difficult, which is the reaſon ſo many eſcape the puniſhment they juſtly deſerve, and triumph over the honeſt and induſtrious who labour for their daily bread.

I can only think of one way, at preſent, to put a ſtop to the Receivers of ſtolen Goods, and that is, by a law being made to oblige every one to keep a proper book of entry of their whole ſtock in trade, with the perſon's name they bought it of, their reſidence, and the price given, to be inſpected by proper perſons appointed for that purpoſe, who ſhould, at all times, and on all occaſions, have acceſs thereto, in order, as far as poſſible, to prevent the receiving of ſtolen goods, which being effected, felonies of courſe would ceaſe, and the abandoned be obliged to make a virtue of neceſſity, and become honeſt and induſtrious,

trious, not only by compulſion, but alſo to procure the means of ſubſiſtence.

Till ſome more effectual method takes place, for preventing the grievances here complained of can be found, we may live in continual fear of the cheats and thieves that daily prey on the lives and properties of our fellow citizens, and countrymen in general, for whom they are ever laying baits and traps, to enveigle and enſnare them, until they have a fit opportunity to plunder and ruin them without ſhame or mercy.

SPUNGERS.

THESE gentry are hardly to be diſtinguiſhed from the *Hanger-on*, except by being, if poſſible, more impudent, and generally in low life, frequenters of the Garden, in order to pick up a dinner, and the Park to get a bottle. Whenever they meet with a countryman, they ſalute him with enquiring the time of the day, or a deſcribing the weather, and entertain him with a ſtory of little conſequence, till they have artfully wheedled him into an invitation for them to dine or ſup with him, on the promiſe of a ſong, or of meeting with ſome jolly blades, the readieſt lads in the world at a catch or merry ſtory, to make him ſplit his ſides with laughter. Can tell you where the beſt entertainment is to be met with; which is the beſt comedian; can get them introduced to ſee ſuch an actreſs, to hear this ſing, or that ſpout; will provide them with the beſt ſeat at the play-houſe, or keep places for them in the front row of the firſt gallery, if they prefer it to the pit; can procure a ticket for the Exhibition Rooms, for half the price it would coſt them to go

go alone, and explain every thing in the Muſeum to them as well as the librarians themſelves.

Theſe Spungers are eaſily to be known by their appearance; when in the ſtreets, walking with a countryman, they are full of talk and obſervation of this houſe, and that woman, ſeem to know every body, their buſineſs and connections; pull off their hats to every well dreſſed gentleman and lady they meet, though perhaps they never ſaw either one or the other before; will give you their whole hiſtory another time, or now, if you have leiſure to hear it. On the arrival at your inn, you generally, out of complaiſance for the ſtranger's civility and intelligence, invite him to dinner, which he readily accepts; after which he will invite himſelf to a pipe and bottle by way of digeſtion, and, becoming familiar and acquainted on a ſudden he will ſtick as cloſe to you, during your ſtay in London, as bird-lime, and ſuck you like a leech, on the ſmalleſt encouragement, but never once mentions, "What is there?" or, "What have I "to pay?" leaving that for you to do, in requital for his company and converſation, beſtowed upon you without aſking for.

If your inclination is for miſchief, he is the only man in the world to aſſiſt you; would you break the lamps, or beat the watchmen, he will ſtand by, and cry bravo! till you are conveyed to the roundhouſe, but will not engage in the quarrel himſelf, acting only as a *corpſe de reſerve*: when you are taken, he will negotiate with the conſtable of the night about your ranſom, for which you muſt pay ſmartly, otherwiſe be detained till juſtice opens her doors to deſcry and puniſh your enormities, according to the nature

of

of the crime committed; upon which the Spunger ſays, that he foreſaw and told you the conſequences that would happen, if you perſevered in your miſchief, but you would not liſten to his admonition and advice.

Theſe and many more artifices the Spunger has at will, to live upon your credulity during your ſtay in town, and often laments the time of your departure from him, which will rob him of the deareſt friend he ever formed connection with; promiſes, by preſents, to make a recompence for the civilities received, in a ſhort time; intimates that a brace of birds, hare, or gammon of bacon will be acceptable, on your return home, as remembrancers of friendſhip and eſteem, and ſometimes leaves you with hypocritical tears and feigned ſorrow. Therefore, againſt their arts and wiles, I warn you to take care, having ſaid ſufficient to guard you againſt them.

SHARPERS.

THE Sharper, who has generally had a genteel education, is a perſon of good addreſs and converſation, has more the power of deluſion at will, than the unlettered cheat, devoid of addreſs, and other requiſites to compleat the pretended gentleman, and therefore ſhould be more carefully avoided. Theſe villains, having run through their fortunes, at an early period of life, by aſſociating with profeſſed Gamblers and Sharpers, who, having eaſed them of their money, in return compleat them for the profeſſion by which they have been ruined; thus qualified, they ſet up for themſelves, throw aſide honour and conſcience, and quote the *lex talionis* for

for deceiving others as they themſelves have been deceived.

Theſe gentry are to be met with at all public places of diverſion, the Horſe-race, Cock-fight, Billiard and Hazard tables. They pretend to be men of quality, or independent fortunes, many of which keep their equipage and *filles de joye*, without a foot of land, or ſhilling in the funds; merely by dint of induſtry, in *taking in* the unthinking ſpendthrift, juſt come to poſſeſſion of his eſtate, and qualifying him for the ſame laudable profeſſion on the expenditure thereof, to enable him to *rub* through life by the art of calculation. Being, through theory as well as conſtant practice, compleat proficients in the different games they play, theſe cheats are ſeldom deceived in the skill and management of their antagoniſts, and in a very ſhort time can diſcover whether they are profeſſors, or only novices, and accordingly play the game to the beſt advantage.

On your entering the tavern, coffee, or gaming-houſe, the Sharper views you with attention, and is not long before he becomes acquainted and very intimate with you; if you agree to his propoſal to play, if he cannot beat you by fair, he will by foul means; rather than loſe, he will elude your attention, or raiſe your paſſion, ſufficiently to put you off your guard, while he plays his underhand game, and cheats you before your face; and though you are ſenſible of being cheated, yet you ſhall not be able to diſcover by what methods it is effected.

So fallacious are theſe Sharpers, that they will prey upon their friends and neareſt relations, rather than be idle and unemployed; yet ſeldom engage

engage each other, unleſs for inſtruction, and to keep themſelves in practice. The generous and unſuſpecting gentleman is often fleeced of his birthright and inheritance, by entering into partnerſhip with the Sharper, who is artful and induſtrious in loſing to his aſſociates, and cheating the friend that intruſted him, and paid a regard to his inſtructions; thoroughly convinced of his pretended rectitude and honeſty. The game being over, and the gentleman gone, the Sharpers divide the ſpoil amongſt them, and laugh at the inexperience and folly of the deluded, ending with "he does not yet *know life.*"

The various methods Sharpers have to cheat and deceive, are ſo many and unaccountable, that I cannot recount a tenth part of them; their ſtudy is to ſupply their exigencies by any means within their power, however villainous or wicked. I have known ſome of them, in high life, (and not unfrequently neither) to invite their acquaintance and neighbours to dine or ſup with them, for no other purpoſe than to make them pay ſeverely for the treat, by propoſing cards after ſupper, which is generally done by one of the accomplices, and agreed to by another; the maſter, upon theſe occaſions, ſometimes is left out, the better to carry on the deſign, and prevent ſuſpicion of foul play, or, at leaſt, of his having a hand in it for that time; that he ſometimes makes one, but generally loſes with every partner he engages, till the company are bankrupts, and the Sharpers the only gainers thereby. Many a round ſum is raiſed by them in this manner, to ſave them from a jail, or to ſupport the luxurious and abandoned lives they lead, having every delicacy in ſeaſon, with which their tables

tables are furniſhed, and cellars ſtored as a bait to catch gudgeons, who are eaſily allured thereby.

Their conſciences being ſeared, regardleſs of the cenſure of the world, the dictates of humanity, and plunged in different vices, without moral ſentiment or honour, is it to be wondered at, if even they cheat their father or brother at play, much leſs their friends, acquaintance, and mankind in general?

If you aſſociate with Sharpers, you muſt not only expect, but deſerve, to be cheated by them for your credulity, inſufficiency, or ſtupidity: For who would go, with his eyes open, into a den of thieves, but in expectation of being robbed? or who would herd with Sharpers, and not expect to be cheated? Therefore, my advice is to ſhun theſe reptiles of the creation, fraught with guile, and artful as the ſerpent to delude. Beware of their converſation, ſhun their company, take no notice of their tricks and fancies, nor be caught with their wheedling profeſſions of friendſhip; liſten not unto them or their enticements, if you would preſerve your peace and property; be not fond of making new acquaintance with perſons whoſe characters you are ſtrangers to, however genteel in appearance and behaviour, for many a Sharper lurks under the diſguiſe of our modern fine gentlemen, as daily experience fatally ſhews.

SWINDLERS.

OF all the vices, frauds, and cheats, related and exhibited to the reader's view and inſpection, there is not one that has been more ſucceſsful, though of old ſtanding, than the modern and infant one of ſwindling, which has

been newly ſet up, and which, like the plague, ſtill rages throughout theſe kingdoms with devaſtation, to the great wrong and injury of multitudes, both in town and country. To expoſe their pernicious practices, and the bad effects produced thereby, may in ſome meaſure ſtop the progreſs of this growing evil, and tend to cruſh the hydra before it has power to do further miſchief; I ſhall therefore be as exact as poſſible in relating one or two of the moſt glaring and flagrant deceptions practiſed on the unwary, in order to give the readers an inſight into the nefarious and audacious proceedings of Swindlers, that they may be enabled to prevent any future attempts of the like nature upon them by theſe peſts of ſociety.

This new ſpecies of knavery, carried on by Swindlers, appears ſpecious in itſelf, the practitioners thereof ſetting themſelves up for men of property and integrity, the more eaſily to defraud the unwary and ignorant out of their ſubſtance and effects; to obtain which, among many, the following is practiſed: A number of them being connected together take a genteel houſe, in a reputable part of the town, and divide themſelves into claſſes of maſters, clerks, out-riders, ſhopmen, porters, and ſervants. From their making a ſhew of opulence they eaſily obtain credit, and lay in goods of every kind, which they ſend into the country, and ſell or barter for other commodities, which they bring up to London and ſell for ready money, generally taking in exchange double the quantity, and paying for the ſame with notes of their own drawing, indorſing, and fabricating, for the purpoſes of cheating the poor deluded farmer, ſhopkeeper, and tradeſman, in the

the interior parts of the country. With reſpect to tradeſmen in town, the goods they take of them on truſt, they diſpoſe of to Jews, and other receivers of ſtolen goods, at about thirty per cent. under value, for ready money, nay fifty per cent. rather than not have the caſh; and, as their ſtay in a place cannot ſafely be above ſix months, on account of their creditors calling in their debts, and their country notes becoming due, they make all poſſible diſpatch to diſpoſe of the various articles, and evacuate the premiſes before detection. This done, they play the ſame game elſewhere, when, *Proteus* like, they change ſhapes, and diſguiſe themſelves ſo as not to be known, and carry on another houſe, but in another name; the maſter becomes the rider, the rider the maſter, the clerks deſcend to footmen and porters, the porters and footmen to clerks, and ſo on throughout, till they have drained many parts of town and country, to the ruin of ſeveral worthy and honeſt families.

Theſe Swindlers have been very artful in evading the law, in negotiating the bad notes they have circulated about the country. They are generally done on copper-plates, as neatly as the bankers; ſome of them are drawn at ſight, others at a longer or ſhorter date, as ſuits their conveniency; the drawer carries them about him all over the country and diſpoſes of them, a ſecond indorſes, a third accepts, but not one is found to pay.

In the weſt of England, about three years ago, ſeveral were detected in theſe illicit practices, taken up, and committed to priſon, but eſcaped the juſtice they deſerved, for want of ſufficient proof of their uttering counterfeit notes, having,

as I before obſerved, fabricated them amongſt themſelves, in defiance of the preſent law in force againſt defrauds of this nature. However, it is to be hoped that for the future, the legiſlative power will enact ſuch ſalutary means, as will effectually diſcover the offences they are guilty of, by taking cognizance of the intent, as well as the atrocious actions, of theſe incorrigible rogues, and modern cheats, which they daily perpetrate, to the injury of trade and commerce, and the ruin of thoſe who unhappily, through ignorance or inattention, fall into the ſnares laid for them by theſe harpies of diſſipation and villainy.

Swindlers have other means of cheating and tricking the public, ſuch as anſwering the advertiſements of poor and indigent tradeſmen, who are in want of a ſum to make good a payment, and protect their credit being injured, by not being able to make remittances in due time, of which they take advantage, by pretending lenity and humanity, and from a ſeeming charitable and benevolent diſpoſition, on hearing their complaints, offers, in conſideration of a ſmall premium, to get them the money required, on their note of hand, which they promiſe muſt be firſt given, and the money will be immediately advanced; the neceſſiated perſon agrees to the terms, and, unthinkingly, gives his note, which one of the Swindlers carries away, with a promiſe of quick return with the money wanted. But, alas! they are deceived, neither the Swindler or note is forth coming until it becomes due, after having paſſed through many different hands, ſome of whom can aſcertain giving a valuable conſideration for the ſame, and fix the drawer to the payment thereof, whoſe only conſolation

ſolation for his credulity is, paying the money, or going to priſon. Sad alternative! but no medium is to be found between the two extremes. By theſe frequent practices (I may ſay daily exhibited) many are ruined, and gain experience, at the expence of fortune and credit, without hopes of reſtitution or remedy.

In caſe of no ſuch advertiſements, and a ſtagnation of trade, the Swindlers advertize themſelves to borrow or lend upon good ſecurities. If they borrow, they have ſham deeds, and make falſe conveyances of eſtates, in *nubibus*, nobody knows where: if they lend, they artfully enveigle the borrower out of his ſecurity, which they take up money upon, and convert to their own uſe, without the poor deluded perſon's knowledge, and, by abſconding, leave him to the mortification of deſcanting on their roguery, and his want of foreſeeing the cataſtrophe that generally follows; conſequences ſometimes attended with the moſt aggravating circumſtances, and often fatal to the laſt degree.

In caſe of detection in any of the foregoing inſtances, the Swindlers are never unprovided with bail, having aſſociates for the purpoſe, in order to extricate them from difficulties that frequently ariſe, from their ſtudied villainies. If the caſe admits of a doubt, and may be over-ruled by affirmations, they never are at a loſs for affidavits to prove the legality and uprightneſs of their dealings; if, on the contrary, they are not within the limits of probability, they abſcond, and leave the proſecutors and the law to ſettle the matters as the can.

Swindlers are compoſed of Jews, Germans, Frenchmen, and natives, of idle and diſſipated

lives, bankrupts and inſolvents, who, having dealt in fraud, and been inured to the inſide of a priſon, are qualified for the commitment of any offence againſt conſcience, law, and religion. Having been at the *Univerſity* *, from whence they return with contaminated morals, fraught with craft and ſubtilty, they ſet out, in defiance of law, honour, or honeſty, as Swindlers, or Smugglers, (the *College* † being a receptacle for both theſe profeſſions) and glory in cheating all thoſe that have not been educated in the ſame ſeminary with themſelves. It is a true ſaying, "That a priſon never mends a perſon's morals," In Swindlers it is thoroughly verified, moſt of them having been tutored therein, and let looſe upon the world to ravage and deſtroy, to the injury of the fair trader, and public in general.

Theſe offenders, notwithſtanding all their arts and inſinuations, are eaſily to be ſingled out from the reſt of mankind; from a pretended hurry in buſineſs, and fear of detection; eyeing every perſon that comes into company aſkance, as doubtful of having ſeen them before; pulling out their pocket-books, and diſplaying numbers of counterfeit checks and notes; ſeldom ſtaying long in a public place frequented by company, getting into privacy with the novices they intend to cheat, and ſuch like underhand and ſuſpicious dealings, ſufficiently announce theſe Swindlers, and their practices, to the obſervant mind, careful of encountering theſe ſons of rapine and plunder, whoſe actions and crimes are notorious, and to be avoided and detected. The countryman, therefore, will be wary of the acquaintance he con-

* A cant expreſſion for the King's-Bench, Fleet Priſon, &c. The ſame.

contracts with ſuch as are here deſcribed; will be careful of dealing with theſe ramblers about the country, by not liſtening to their deluſive perſuaſions, or enticements, to change or purchace their commodities, and accept their notes and drafts in exchange, or otherwiſe take notice of their proceedings, except by endeavouring to detect and bring to juſtice theſe lawleſs and abandoned miſcreants, that over-run the country at large, to the great nuiſance and detriment thereof.

In ſhort, to guard againſt Swindlers, and their fraudulent artifices, is of the greateſt conſequence to every tradeſman, either in town or country; experience of the world will teach them to guard againſt, and the moſt unthinking may be ſatisfied, that the principles of every one is not founded on the baſis, or guided by the line of honeſty. Theſe conſiderations ſhould induce mankind in general, and more eſpecially the trading part, to act as circumſpectly as poſſible, and then they would not be liable to meet and encounter with thoſe misfortunes that are always attendant on the credulous and unwary.

SETTERS.

THESE are a dangerous ſet of wretches who are capable of committing any villainy, as well by trepanning of a rich heir into matrimony with a caſt off miſtreſs, or common proſtitute; as by coupling a young heireſs with a notorious ſharper, down to the loweſt ſcene of ſetting debtors for the bailiff and his followers. Their lives are one continued ſeries of fraud and deception; and being ſchemers of the firſt magnitude

to

to gain a ſubſiſtence, they poſſeſs every vice requiſite for effecting their baſe deſigns, and are fraught with every artful device to compleat their deſires, and render them permanent. As to lying, cheating, diſſimulation, flattery, or hypocriſy, they have them all at their beck, and can make them at pleaſure ſubſervient to the proſecution of their miſchievous projects.

So artful are theſe Setters, that if you once fall into their ſnares, it will be difficult for you to eſcape on this ſide ruin. Among other practices, they pretend friendſhip and ſincerity; and, by making a gay appearance, you are induced to believe them; ſometimes they aſſume the airs and dignity of perſons of quality, and offer to introduce you to one of the greateſt heireſſes in England, or beauty in the world, after being informed of your poſſeſſions; or to a ſiſter, daughter, or ward under their guardianſhip. Inflamed with love and wine, you fly to the celebrated charmer, and, by candle light, find her anſwer, and ſometimes exceed, the favourable deſcription you received of her beauty, or of her wealth, by the grandeur and ſtate ſhe lives in for that night only, having hired the houſe and furniture for the purpoſe of celebrating her nuptials. Smitten with the firſt glance of the lady, you reſign your heart and hand at diſcretion, which ſhe immediately accepts, on a preſumption that delays are dangerous. The conjugal knot being tied, like the Copper Captain in the play, you find the promiſed and wiſhed for lands, houſes, and furniniture, the property of *another*, and not of *yourſelf*. What is to be done? carry the bride home, and confeſs yourſelf duped into a mere huſband? or make a ſettlement and articles of ſeparation?

The

The latter, being the moſt rational, generally takes place; the Setter is made truſtee, the lady contented, and you diſſolved from a patched up marriage, calculated to plague or ruin you.

Many of theſe marriages now-a-days take place without the aid of a Setter, both in high and low life. The gentleman and lady meet at the maſquerade, or aſſembly, the queſtion is aſked, the conſent obtained, the parſon in readineſs, the ceremony performed, to bed they go, and the duped party——*repents at leiſure.*

The Smith, having married two or three wives before, and being in want of another, meets Betty in Bedford Row, asks her if ſhe will be married? Betty drops a curtſey, and ſays, "if you pleaſe;" the junction is formed, and, long before night, a ſtorm's preſaged from the cloudy brows of the new made bride, on poor *Vulcan*'s getting drunk on his wedding day, which breaks upon his unſuſpecting head in *thunder*, *lightening*, and in *rain*. If my reader wants inſtances of the foregoing aſſertions, I can quote him many beſide the above well known facts. Betty is daily to be ſeen reading penitential pſalms and hymns; her huſband, ſince their marriage, having wrought a reformation in her manners: I recommended to her peruſal *The Holy Bible in Verſe* *, being fond of poetical religion, which ſhe and her help mate may get by heart, and lay in a ſtore of uſeful knowledge, which at preſent they ſeem deficient in.

* This Bible is dedicated to the Prince of Wales, an entire new work, printed in numbers, at ſix pence each, by Mr. Fellows, author of a poem called Grace Triumphant, and well worthy the mature peruſal of our readers, who are delighted with ſweet concord and harmony of ſound.

But

But to return from digreſſion: let me adviſe the countryman on his arrival in London, let his ſtation in life be what it may, not to enter into the Setter's *projects*, *ſchemes*, or *intrigues*, for if he cannot palm a wife upon you, he may thereby entangle you, and draw you into bonds, notes, or agreements, to the ruin of yourſelf and fortune. In one word, of all villains the Setter is the moſt dangerous, as his ſubſiſtence depends upon the ruin of the unthinking and deluded countryman, whoſe pernicious wiles are too often ſucceſsful in ſeduction and deceit, as woeful experience thoroughly proves in many unhappy creatures brought to beggary by their means, who are now pining away their lives in loathſome want and miſery.

SMUGGLERS.

THESE are a numerous race of people that have no other way of living than by following the illegal practice of ſmuggling. Men of deſperate fortunes, among whom the farmer and ſhop-keeper ſometimes may be found; who, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the law, may be put in force againſt them, yet that has little or no effect upon their morals; for, being thrown into priſon, they ſtill, by the aſſiſtance of their collegues, carry on the ſmuggling branch within doors, by retailing coffee, tea, china, and other contraband goods, to the great injury of the fair trader.

Two different gangs are concerned in carrying on this wicked buſineſs; the firſt to import the goods from abroad, and the other to diſpoſe of them when landed: but if the firſt were taken, and

and puniſhed as they deſerve, the latter would fall of courſe.

The method taken for many years by the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, to whoſe care the water guard is committed, was to fit out armed veſſels to cruiſe on the Smugglers, but the latter for a long time out built, and frequently bid the others defiance; and the reaſon was evident, at that time no proviſion being made for the men employed in that ſervice, or their families, in caſe they were diſabled or killed, nor any reward for apprehending at ſea theſe moſt deſperate of malefactors. It is apprehended that a want of ſufficient encouragement to the perſons employed in that dangerous ſervice, was the cauſe of the increaſe and continuation of the evil complained of.

Yet, notwithſtanding the regulations that have ſince been made, and the encouragement given, in order to ſuppreſs the Smugglers, I do not ſee but they are as numerous in 1780 as they were in 1745, and rob the government at this day, of as much as they did at that, which I have hereunder recited, in order to ſhew the enormity of their crimes.

By a particular account of goods ſmuggled in the county of Suffolk, from May to January 1745, it appears, that great quantities were run, by ſeveral gangs well armed, from veſſels which put into *Benazar*, *Sizewell*, and other places, loaded on horſes, from twenty to two hundred in a body; the total of them was 4551; and, ſuppoſing their loading to be one-half tea, and one-half brandy, the loſs to the revenue and nation, by ſpecie carried abroad, ſtood thus:

2275

	Loſs to the revenue.	Specie carried abroad.
2275 Horſes loaded, with tea at one hundred and half each, the neat pounds will be 382,144, at 2s. 6d. per lb. for cuſtom and exciſe, is - - - - -	£. 47768	
And at 2s. per lb. for the firſt coſt abroad, is		£. 38216
2276 Horſes loaded with brandy, at one hundred and half each, will be about 21 gallons per horſe, making 47,796 gallons neat, at about 5s. a gallon for exciſe and cuſtom, is - - - - - - -	£. 11949	
And at 2s. a gallon for the firſt coſt abroad, is		£. 4779
4551 horſes.	£. 59717	£. 42995

It was the general opinion that more than two-thirds of the above was tea; if ſo, the loſs to the revenue and ſpecie carried abroad would riſe proportionably higher.

If ſuch was the loſs to our country in a few months, in the year 1745, by the cuſtom of ſmuggling, what muſt it be now? certainly a great deal more, to the ruin of many an honeſt and fair trader. Since that period there has not been, as I can find, any decreaſe in luxury and diſſipation, which may juſtly be ſaid to be the encouragers of Smugglers, and cauſe of their various ſucceſſes.

Many

Many ways have been thought of to ſuppreſs them, but to little purpoſe, few conſidering them in the light of robbers of their King and country, and therefore wink at their mal-practices, and ſeem more inclined to help and ſcreen, than to detect and bring them to juſtice. The women in particular are great encouragers of ſmuggling, and ſcruple not to ſay "there is no harm "in cheating the King of his duty in a little tea "for our own conſumption;" and, rather than buy of the fair dealer, will give more to the Smuggler for what is not ſo good, pleaſing themſelves at the ſame time with the thoughts of having purchaſed a great bargain.

Smugglers, in general, are reſolute daring offenders; and many of them, from a natural averſion to the Revenue officers, have, without any provocation, maimed and murdered them. Scarce a week paſſes but we hear of ſkirmiſhes between theſe deſperadoes and the officers of the cuſtoms, whereby many of both parties are inhumanly and unmercifully deſtroyed, the one in the diſcharge of his duty, the other in the protection of his run goods. Amongſt the latter are as great cheats as exiſted, for it is no new thing with them to ſell you their contraband and prohibited commodities one day, and to inform againſt you the next.

Therefore it behoves my readers to be wary and circumſpect with whom they have dealings; I need not tell them that, beſide the riſk they run in purchaſing their goods and having them ſeized, they are liable to be exchequered, fined, and confined, during life or pleaſure, beſides that the commodity they buy ſeldom anſwers their expectation. Let me adviſe them, as I have be-

fore, to trade only with the fair dealer, and then they will have nothing to fear on that head, but be able, according to their circumſtances, to enjoy life, and the fruits of their labour, unmoleſted by Cuſtom-houſe Officers, or the ſtings of conſcience, which, one time or other, in a greater or leſs degree, prey upon the minds of the abovementioned illegal traders.

SHOPLIFTERS,

ARE as pernicious to the trading part of the community as any of the forementioned cheats, and do as much miſchief both in town and country. I believe there is hardly a city or market town throughout England, where inhabitants have not experienced the truth of the above aſſertion. Lace ſhops, jewellers, ſilverſmiths, mercers, linen-drapers, haberdaſhers, and hoſiers, are the greateſt ſufferers by them; on theſe ſhops they fix, being the eaſieſt to be robbed, and from theſe they get the greateſt property: ſuch as rings, watches, buckles, and trinkets of different kinds, which are to be had at the jewellers and ſilver-ſmiths; half a dozen cards of lace lie in a ſmall compaſs, and are eaſily conveyed away from the laceman. Linen, cambrick, or muſlin, ribbands, &c. the Shoplifters will get poſſeſſion of, in three or four hours, to the value of ſome ſcore of pounds; and if they get leſs than ten or twelve pounds a day, many of them think their time but ill employed. As there are not, on a moderate calculation, in and about this metropolis, leſs than an hundred and forty or fifty of theſe artful thieves, it is really ſhocking to think what prejudice they do to the trading

trading part of the induſtrious public, one half of whom are not ſenſible of this, by being deprived of their goods without ever coming to a knowledge thereof. The Shoplifter's genteel appearance and addreſs is their chief protection, as they, by theſe means, prevent the injured party's ſuſpecting their intentions.

To effect theſe robberies they go in different parties of two each from their place of aſſociation, and upon ſome occaſions it is neceſſary to add a third for the completion of their ſchemes; that is, when they go from ſhop to ſhop in order to do a deal of buſineſs, a man is added to two women, to receive and ſecure the goods the women have ſtolen in one ſhop before they enter another, to prevent any thing being found upon them in caſe of detection.

Theſe Shoplifters have different provinces; the ladies are viſitants of the linen-draper, mercer, haberdaſher, and laceman; they enter the ſhop with complaiſance in their countenance, and deception in their hearts, deſire to ſee this and that, until they have half filled the counter: when they think there is ſufficient for them to anſwer their purpoſe, one of the women holds the ſeller in diſcourſe about the loweſt price of one article, while her colleague ſteals another, which ſhe claps under her petticoats, where there is a hook for the reception of any thing bulky; if it ſhould be lace, it is eaſily conveyed through the pocket-hole and put under the ſtays, which done, ſome trifle being purchaſed, away they go, without ſuſpicion, to a convenient place, where the third is in waiting to receive the contents; if in caſe the articles ſtolen ſhould be miſſed, and the parties ſecured, it will little avail if they once get out

of the ſhop, as the things are immediately parted with to the accomplice, and, as you find nothing upon them, it will be impoſſible to convict them. Therefore linen-drapers, and others, ſhould be careful of being deluded by the ſpecious arts and ſtories of this filching crew, whoſe intention is to amuſe, and withdraw you from ſuſpecting their buſineſs, till they have completed it, leaving you to comment thereon at your leiſure.

The men's buſineſs lies amongſt lace ſhops, jewellers, and ſilverſmiths; cloths, linens, &c. being too cumberſome for their conveyance; not having the ſame advantages with the women, they generally make amends by quickneſs and dexterity. When their attention is fixed on a watch, ring, or other article of value, their accomplice perceives it, and immediately engages the maſter, with pointing out a flaw in ſuch a piece of goods, while the other, as nimble as a juggler, conveys the intended booty into his ſide-pocket, with ſo quick a motion, that it is imperceptible to the accuteſt eye, when fixed upon another perſon. The firſt having played his part, the ſecond does the ſame, till having ſtripped the ſhop of as much as they can conveniently carry away without detection, buy a pair or two of ſleeve buttons, or ſome ſuch trifle, and make their eſcape without ſuſpicion.

The jewellery branch is not the moſt unprofitable, as either one or two may carry it on; the articles that are ſmall, theſe gentry unperceived, will ſecrete in the palms of their hands, throw into their pockets, mouth, and other places about them, whenever they ſee the jeweller's eye unemployed about their perſon, that being the time

to

to compleat the theft in contemplation, and to get off unſuſpected.

It is neceſſary that every tradeſman ſhould be upon his guard, and keep a ſharp look out after his cuſtomers, not knowing by their appearance whether they are honeſt or otherwiſe. If he has no reaſon for ſuſpicion, precaution will do him no injury, but rather be of advantage; for the Shoplifter knows, from the very countenance of the tradeſman, whether he is eaſily to be taken in, by the alertneſs and attention paid to every action of the cuſtomer; and if there be more than one, a ſignificant nod to the journeyman or apprentice, convinces the thief that he is watched, if not ſuſpected, upon which he withdraws himſelf without a booty. If the above was duly obſerved, or, on many cuſtomers being preſent, a third or fourth perſon was to be employed in taking a ſurvey thereof, I am well aſſured ſo many complaints would not be made, nor ſo much reaſon for it, by in part fruſtrating and detecting the intention and cheats daily practiced on the tradeſman, through his want of penetration and duly attending to the neceſſary buſineſs of his calling, for the protection and ſecurity of his property from theſe rapacious plunderers of the negligent and unwary.

TRAPPERS,

ARE a ſet of wicked wretches, that take every advantage in their power of the unthinking countryman, but once loſt to virtue, and become the companion of pimps, panders, bawds, and whores, for a ſingle night only. Their

method of laying the trap, is by the aſſiſtance of a big bellied whore, whom the Trapper introduces as one to be provided for by the whole community; the pimp and pander muſt contribute towards providing for the young ſtranger, and ſo muſt the countryman, cully, and novice, every one ſubſcribing under the notion of being the father, a proper maintenance for mother and child, or a warrant is immediately obtained to compel you, the pariſh officers are ſent for, and the whore is ready to ſwear that you are the father. By theſe means the matter is ſettled; a wife, maintenance, or mittimus. If they once get knowledge of your papers, memorandums, place of abode, connections and buſineſs, they are ſure to play them off againſt you to complete their villainies, pretending that the woman is a perſon of credit and honeſty, and muſt be ſatisfied for the injury done her, or they will not only expoſe you to the world, but bring an action againſt you for ſeduction, &c.

Thus, by entering the petty brothel for a night, an unſuſpecting perſon may be ſaddled with a whore and baſtard, expoſed and proſecuted, nay perhaps ruined, from their falſe allegations againſt you, of the moſt heinous and unnatural crimes, ſhocking to imagination, they will ſtick at nothing to trap and defraud you on this ſide murder.

Many an unwary ſtranger is taken in as above recited; and many become their prey through inſinuations of their being people of a ſuſpected caſt, and that if they do not ſupply them with money from time to time, the Trappers have men to ſwear againſt them deteſtable crimes; the dread of which has frightened many out of their money,

money, made others quit their country rather than be even ſuſpected, knowing that theſe gentry will ſtop at nothing to accompliſh their wicked and malicious deſigns, in order to obtain money to ſupport them in riot and debauchery.

It is a common method with theſe Trappers to way-lay a gentleman in the Park, and begin with him after the following manner: "Jack, "that is the gentleman that did ſo and ſo with "me, at ſuch a time." "Is it, ſays a ſecond, "I know him well, and ſo ſhall the world too, "I'll blow the fellow to the devil." A third comes up, "propoſes the gentleman's giving "huſh money to theſe raſcals, who are capable "of committing any wickedneſs;" this is whiſpered in his ear; if he refuſes, the third condemns him, and the buzz is carried round the Park, a mob collected, and too often the gentleman ill uſed. If he agrees to give money to huſh the matter up, the Trappers have him ſecure on all occaſions, to extort money from him, which is generally done by letters, and meſſengers ſent upon the occaſion, to the continual terror and mortification of the party injured. However, it muſt be obſerved in this place, that theſe Trappers ſeldom inſult any they have not ſome knowledge of, either in the purlieus of the Garden, Drury-lane, or Hedge-lane; therefore, to eſcape the like wicked charges, and to avoid the above impoſitions, it is neceſſary to warn all my readers from frequenting theſe petty brothels, and houſes filled with the dregs of the common ſtews, compoſed of the lower claſs of Whores, Trappers, Bullies, Setters, Scamps, and Pickpockets.

WHORES.

WHORES are ſo common and notorious, from the higheſt in life not to be obtained but at a very extravagant rate, and the miſerable wretch on the dunghill; and ſo many inſtances of unhappineſs are brought on mankind by aſſociating with them, that it is impoſſible to pourtray one half of its fatal effects, which daily experience brings to view, through the depravity of human nature, and the impetuoſity of paſſion in the vicious and abandoned, ſo that not only the inperienced countryman, but likewiſe the citizen, who has daily *memento's* before his face, falls a victim to the allurements of the inſinuating or attractive Whore in every ſtate of life, from the Hackneyed one to the Whore of Faſhion.

By the Hackneyed Whores is to be underſtood thoſe nauſeating creatures that ply at the corner of ſtreets, alleys, and bye lanes, that by night parade the Strand, and other public places; ſuch as theſe are loſt to all ſhame and decency, and tho' palled with heated luſt, are ſtill, *to feed loathſome life*, devoted to every flagitious and wicked purpoſe for bread, and continually as it were forcing men to their diſguſtful embraces, by every art and trick that wantonneſs and wickedneſs can invent.

Compelled by neceſſity, they proſtitute themſelves for the ſmalleſt conſideration, and are infected with diſeaſes incident thereto, from a complication of diſorders collected and imbibed by aſſociating with the very ſcum of the earth, ſo that they become loathſome and hideous ſpectacles to themſelves, and are rather antidotes than incentives to the pleaſure expected from the union of the ſexes.

A ſecond claſs have houſes of retreat, kept by Bawds for the reception of the cullies, and where the ſcenes of wickedneſs are acted in privacy and ſecurity. Firſt being made ſtupid by the dregs of adulterated wine and ſtupifying ſpirits, they are perſuaded to ſpend the evening in thoſe ſchools of debauchery, to the ruin of their morals, their health and fortunes. The Bawd being the miſtreſs, the Whore is only a ſecondary in the place, and, after the man is diſcharged, the creature ſupplicates ſomething for her complaiſance and condeſcenſion. The only difference to be found between theſe lewd creatures and the former claſs, is their being better habited by the women that have them in pay, and are attended by them and Procureſſes, to prevent their running away with the cloaths they have provided for them, in which they appear gaily to allure the youths of diſſipation, by a diſplay of borrowed plumes to ſet them off to advantage, being, like Jezebel of old, patched, painted, and perfumed, for the purpoſes of enticement and debauchery.

Theſe creatures being immediately under the inſpection of Bawds and Procureſſes, they are obliged to ſubmit to their inſtructions, and act according to their directions, however ſhocking or diſgraceful to their ſex and humanity; making uſe of the moſt indecent geſticulations and expreſſions, ſwallowing large draughts of the moſt peſtiferous potions, to the injury of both mental and actual faculties, which poiſons mind and body, therefore are but little preferable to the unharboured Whore who has no habitation.

Their

Their allurements are fraught with deception, and they often ſubſtitute liquor in the room of argument, to prevail on the objects of their prey, till they have heated him with paſſion, the better to accompliſh their ends.

Paſſion being productive of paſſion in a greater extreme, they egg the cully on until he becomes a dupe to their artifices, and work him up to their purpoſe by endearments and other fallacious pretences, till, thoroughly abſorbed in riot, they take the opportunity to profit by his ſtay and intoxication, by making the moſt they can of him, and then ſend him away as empty in pocket as in knowledge of their ſchemes and vicious artifices, practiſed on the unguarded and unthinking part of men that fall into their clutches.

By theſe means the poor deluded countryman becomes a dupe to the artful doxies, ſome of which are ſcarce in their teens, loſes his money, injures his health, and habituates himſelf to drinking pernicious draughts of poiſon contained in their ſtupifying liquors, which ſeldom fails of producing the worſt and moſt alarming conſequences, excluſive of ſquandering away fortune, health, and credit, which too often terminates in the loſs of life itſelf.

The bagnio, jelly, and private baudy-houſes claim attention next, the ladies of which, being one ſtep raiſed above the ſtreet walkers juſt mentioned, and yet dependant on Bawds for their attire and appearance in life, being decorated with watches and trinkets, claim a degree of ſuperiority, for which they keep in pay *flaſh* men, landlords, and ſervants to procure them cuſtomers, who make a conſiderable living out of them, by extracting ſo much per cent. for their

their introduction, as the furniſhers of cloaths do *per* ſuit *per* day for their dreſſes. Theſe Whores are as much diſtreſſed, and in as great miſery, as either of the former, and more liable to arreſts and inconveniencies, and are frequently obliged to ſubmit to the moſt humiliating means of procuring a wretched ſubſiſtence.

The mode of obtaining the neceſſary expences of life is arrogantly aſſumed, by premiſing that they have lodgings to pay for, and attendants, and cannot aſſociate with the creatures of the town, inſinuating, at the ſame time, that their education ſets them on a level with ladies of greater fortunes, and are more happily ſituated, being kept miſtreſſes, and therefore expect greater gratuities and more reſpect than the common ſort, and the title and precedence of the latter. If you aſſociate with ladies of this ſtamp, you muſt expect to pay accordingly, though that will not exempt any from the accidents liable to the frequenters of common ſtews, few of theſe having bills of health about them, to inſure their cuſtomers from diſaſters.

The next claſs are the Whores of Faſhion, the refuſe, and caſt off miſtreſſes of men of quality, who, being left with a few cloaths and ſome money, affect grandeur and genteel life, and thereby enſnare the unſuſpecting and inconſiderate, who are indifferent about the money ſquandered upon them, if they can but have the credit of being looked on as perſons capable of adminiſtring to the foibles and follies of a fine woman, though the refuſe of a nobleman. Theſe Ladies of Pleaſure, as they are ſtiled by the *Beau Monde*, reſerve themſelves only for ſuch as are able, by ample fortunes, to pay

for

for the favours they beſtow: and being followed by officers they become toaſts, and are thereby ſought after by wealthy merchants and tradeſmen, to ſhew their taſte and breeding, in ſelecting women of the *Bon Ton* for their leiſure moments, and hours of indulgence.

To ſpeak of theſe ladies as they deſerve, I muſt confeſs they are the moſt ſpecious of all Whores whatever; for as amongſt thieves, ſo amongſt them a pretenſion to honour is to be found, and therefore ſome dependance is placed on their aſſeverations, though, in the end, you pay dearly for their condeſcenſions and favours.

There are other degrees of Whores in high ſtation; but as they are not particularly under the caution this book undertakes to moralize on, I ſhall leave them to prey on their keepers in high life, content with giving a deſcription of thoſe who more immediately may be ſaid to concern the generality of people, that they may avoid the female artifices here ſet forth, and eſchew the evils ſuch women generally entail on thoſe whom they ſeduce, and ſometimes on their poſterity.

WAY-LAYERS.

THESE Way-layers, or Kid-layers, have at different times, for many years paſt, raiſed many and large contributions on the public, notwithſtanding Sir John Fielding's people have of late watched them narrowly, and brought to juſtice ſome of the moſt atrocious. But there are, at this time, hundreds in the metropolis that ply at night in the ſtreets, and in the day time at the entrance of inns, or in the yard, where waggons

gons or machines put up. Three of theſe gentry go together, one of which having a more gentleman-like appearance, if he meets a porter, or ſervant with a parcel of any kind, ſeems in much diſtreſs to ſend a letter away immediately, offers half a crown to any body that will carry it; the porter, or ſervant, hearing a perſon acroſs the way ſay, "Maſter, how far is it? I'll carry it," and is willing to be beforehand with the other, offers his ſervice; but aſks what is to become of the parcel or goods in the mean time? why the gentleman will ſtay by it till their return, which will not take them ten minutes. The load is put down, the letter given, away goes the porter or ſervant one way, and the Way-layers another with the booty. This mode of thieving has been practiſed many years with ſucceſs.

Another method is purſued ſimilar to the former, by the pretended gentleman's waiting near the inn where the porter is carrying his load, a knowledge of which is ſometimes eaſily obtained by the direction, or the enquiry of one of the Layers; a third habited as a book-keeper, or porter of the inn, ſtands in the gate-way; the ſuppoſed gentleman wants a letter carried in great haſte, aſks the perſon he intends to rob how far he is going? who replies, Only over the way with that parcel, will be back in a minute, and carry it for him; the other pretending great haſte, the porter, on entering the inn gate, is accoſted by the ſham book-keeper with, "For "what place is that parcel?" Such a place, He replies, "Put it down, and I'll take care of "it." This generally ſucceeds; away returns the porter to the pretended gentleman, who gives him a letter and ſhilling for the other end of the town, while they ſecure their booty at this.

Countrymen and errand-boys to ſhops are the beſt cuſtomers the Way-layers have. The countryman they practiſe on by many devices, till they have robbed him, either by treating him at the public houſe, enticing him to play at ſome game, carrying his burden for him, and the like, till opportunity and ſtratagem ſuit for giving him the ſlip, which is done by another's ſtopping him in the ſtreet, and pretending to know either him, the place he came from, or ſome of his countryfolks, entertaining him with a ſtory of a cock and a bull, till his comrades have ſecured the countryman's effects, and abſconded therewith. Sometimes they will lead the poor fellow up one ſtreet and down another, pretending to know the place he would go to, till he is quite tired out, upon which one of them offers to eaſe him; which being accepted, while he and the other are in diſcourſe, the *eaſer* unperceived ſlips down ſome bye lane, or alley, or into ſome houſe with the countryman's property, leaving him to bewail his credulity, and to curſe the authors of his misfortune. If he looks back, and does not ſee the Layer with the parcel, and begins to ſuſpect deceit, on enquiry what is become of him, he is told the perſon is gone the other way, being more free of paſſengers; and when they come near the place, the Layer ſhews him the houſe or inn where he is to find his comrade and the parcel, telling him he will wait on the other ſide of the ſtreet till his return; the countryman goes his way in a fruitleſs ſearch of them, and the Layer haſtens to ſhare with his aſſociates their ill-got gains.

Errand-boys are frequently robbed by diſcovering to the Way-layer the commodities they are carrying to Mr. Such-a one's, their maſter's name,

name, buſineſs, and reſidence; which obtained, away goes the Layer to inform his mates of the prize they have in view, and to give them the neceſſary intelligence and inſtructions, in order to obtain the ſame. If the boy enquires his way, he is directed by one of them, and, within a few yards of the houſe is met by another, who aſks him if he has not brought him ſuch and ſuch things from his maſter, tells him his name, takes the parcel from him, and ſends him back for other articles, which he is ordered to return with immediately, as a cuſtomer is waiting for them; the unſuſpecting boy goes home, gets the freſh order, and brings it to the houſe where he ſhould have left the firſt, when, too late, he is made ſenſible of his error in truſting to ſtrangers in the ſtreets, however feaſible their ſtory of being the perſon he was directed to may appear.

The above deſcription of Way-layers will be, I hope, a ſufficient caution to countrymen and errand-boys to avoid them, without a further charge, by always ſeeing goods intended for the country properly booked at the inns they are to go from; by carrying all parcels to the houſes directed, and delivering them therein; not ſuffering any perſons they have no knowledge of to entice or deceive them, by the old bait of paying them for carrying letters, and taking care of their parcels in the mean time, or ſuffering any body to carry their burdens for them; all which, if avoided, will ſecure their or their maſter's property and effects from falling a prey to the Way-layers, who are daily ſculking about in ſearch of whom they may plunder, to the great injury and misfortune of all who are ſo unhappy as to fall into their hands.

WAGGON-HUNTERS.

THESE are the next offenders I ſhall ſet up to the reader's view, compoſed of very different perſonages, namely, old Bawds, or Procureſſes, Scamps, or Robbers on the Highway. With reſpect to the firſt of theſe, their occupation is, as I have more particularly obſerved under their reſpective heads, to entice country maidens, on their arrival in London, to their houſes of ill fame, under the pretence of providing for them, in order to ruin and ſacrifice them to the luſt and laſciviouſneſs of old debilitated lechers, and emaciated beaux and maccaronies.

Theſe abandoned old caterers are attendants on the waggons and machines arrival in town, in order to decoy a ſimple country girl for a vicious nobleman, which they effect in the following manner: Having taken their ſeat at a convenient part of the inn, adjacent to the place the machine ſtops at, no ſooner is the country maid out of it, than ſhe is ſaluted, ſometimes by name, (which the old Bawd has got from the waggoner or driver, whom ſhe keeps in pay for intelligence of his paſſengers) and aſked how ſhe does? and how her parents are? and other queſtions about the country. Whether ſhe is in want of a place? and what ſort of a place? She tells her, ſhe wants a country ſervant, and, as ſhe can ſee honeſty in her face, ſhould be glad to hire ſuch a one. Theſe, and other like artful inſinuations, ſometimes prevail with the maid to follow her home, in hopes of being handſomely provided for, and congratulates herſelf on her good fortune the firſt day of her arrival in

London.

London. But, alas! a ſecond day preſents her with nothing but ſhame and ruin.

Decoyed into the harpy's den, ſhe is ſoon made ſenſible of the ſervice ſhe is to do her employer, by proſtituting her uncontaminated body to age, diſeaſe, or deformity; if ſhe refuſes, force is added to perſuaſion and threats, till her ruin is compleated.

When once a woman has loſt her virtue, either through force or perſuaſion, ſhe ſeldom weighs the matter judiciouſly, or withdraws herſelf from vice, but rather gives way to it; and what at firſt ſhe did reluctantly, becoming habitual to her, ſhe gives herſelf up for loſt, and enters every ſucceeding time into the path of wickedneſs with leſs regret than the former, till ſhe becomes as abandoned in principles and morals as ſhe is hackneyed and accuſtomed to lewdneſs of thought and proſtitution of body. Theſe old Bawds, under the deſcription of Waggon-Hunters, become tutors of thoſe ignorant and inexperienced young creatures they have unhappily enveigled into their houſes, under ſpecious pretences of making their fortunes, after they have got them thoroughly *broke in*, as it is called; in making the moſt of them, and as the men recommended to their company, by practiſing every art of coquetry or lewdneſs as beſt hits their Cully's liking, which they work up with ſurprizing ſucceſs and aſſiduity.

It is neceſſary to caution the country maid from giving any ear to the Waggon-Hunter's fallacious promiſes of providing or getting her a ſervice, as fatal conſequences are the reſult thereof, to the ruin of hundreds yearly. The maiden cannot be too cautious in whom ſhe places confidence on her arrival in London, or with whom

ſhe makes acquaintance, or forms connexions; let her therefore be wary and circumſpect therein, and have nothing to ſay to ſtrangers: but let her adviſe with her friends or relations, if ſhe has any, about the honeſt purſuit ſhe is to make through life with reputation and credit; let her avoid public places of diverſions, too much frequented by the giddy and unthinking, without a ſafeguard to protect her from the enſnaring hunters of innocence and ſimplicity. In ſhort, let her be careful of her ſpare time, and not indulge herſelf too much in ſearch of faſhionable pleaſures, and keeping late hours, which prove too frequently the bane of her ſex.

The other ſpecies of Waggon-hunters are arrant thieves, that ply about town in the duſk of the evening, to rob the waggons on their arrival, which is done by aſſociation; ſome of their gang, dreſſing as countrymen, overtake the waggoner on the road, a few miles from town, deſire to have a lift, pretending ignorance, and a fear of being preſſed, at the ſame time offering to pay for the ride. The waggoner, not ſuſpecting their deſign, conſents; then they get up to rummage and open ſuch goods as may be worth ſtealing, and can be eaſily conveyed away without detection. Another of them walks with the waggoner, and tells him different kinds of ſtories, to divert his attention from the care of his truſt, while he on the inſide is handing out the goods to his accomplices, even in the very ſtreets, and while people are walking to and fro, without moleſtation. Between Hyde-park turnpike and the White-horſe Cellar, Piccadilly, from Iſlington to St. John's-ſtreet near Smithfield, and from Bethnal-green to Whitechapel, theſe villainous practices are daily carried on by a ſet

a ſet of rogues, in defiance of law, and to the wrong and injury of many a tradeſman and private perſon.

Theſe gentry are equally ſkilful in cutting away portmanteaus, trunks, and boxes from behind chaiſes, &c.* if not thoroughly watched, which it is the duty of every driver to take care of, by attending to the vehicle under his charge and giving a good look out, which would be the means of fruſtrating the attempts of theſe villains, and prevent the general complaints made againſt drivers, of their careleſſneſs and want of honeſty, in not endeavouring to detect and bring to juſtice theſe notorious robbers of the public, with whom, too often, it is ſuſpected, and to be feared, they are concerned in their wicked and injurious proceedings.

JEW DEFAULTERS.

THERE are many other enormities committed in this great city beſides thoſe already mentioned, by ſuch as are Sabbath-breakers, Falſe Witneſſes, Perjured perſons, and others of the like claſs, who having loſt all ſenſe of religion (or rather having never paid any attention thereto) begin their career of wickedneſs, firſt by abſenting themſelves from public worſhip on a Sunday,

* A very judicious ſcheme was laid, a ſhort time ago, to detect theſe gentry, particularly thoſe accuſtomed to robbing Poſtchaiſes, by cutting off the portmanteaus from behind, and other ſuch like proceedings. Mr. Clark, and ſome other of Sir John Fielding's men, for the purpoſe of detection, hired a chaiſe; behind it was faſtened a trunk, with which they drove for town; and, according to their expectations, the robbers attempted and effected their purpoſes, but being detected in the commiſſion thereof, were ſecured, and examined by the Juſtices of Police, in Bow-ſtreet, but unfortunately for the preſent eſcaped commitment, on account of the *trap* being laid for the intent of detection only.

Sunday, and afterwards by aſſociating with the abandoned and irreligious, till in proceſs of time they take up one of the before recited callings, for a livelihood; which is the fruit of an idle lazy diſpoſition, which prompts them rather to rob and prey on the public, than labour honeſtly to get their bread as good Chriſtians and members of the community ought to do. A number of inſtances might be brought of the fatal conſequences attendant on the Sabbath-breaker, who generally finiſhes his days at the gallows, as ſet forth in almoſt every dying ſpeech and confeſſion of the malefactors executed at Tyburn.

The many notorious depredations and outrages committed by Jews, are very alarming in a Chriſtian country ſuch as Great Britain is, remarkable for its excellent laws; and it is to be lamented that no effectual means can be found to ſtop the growing evil, which, of late years, has overſpread the country. The many horrid and ſhocking murders and burglaries they have committed, and for which ſome have juſtly ſuffered, call for the interference of the legiſlative power, and the matureſt wiſdom, in adjuſting a code of laws particularly to ſuppreſs this numerous race of villains, who ſeem to glory in their horrid practices. Through the lenity of our laws, and the impartiality of our deciſions, the Jews elude the juſtice their notorious crimes demand, by procuring falſe witneſſes to vouch for them on trial, and perjuring themſelves upon trivial occaſions, and by ſuch means often eſcape the puniſhment they deſerve.

Pettyfogging Attornies are to be found, capable of undertaking any dirty work, and of wreſting truth a thouſand ways, in order to make it ſerve their turns, thereby perverting the law from it's real

real meaning, and giving it the appearance of falſehood in contradiction to it's known principles of equity, juſtice, and truth. To ſuch as theſe the Jew reſorts; to men whoſe conſciences are ſeared, who would, for the ſake of lucre, ruin or betray their neareſt and deareſt relation or friend, without remorſe; nay, for the ſake of gain, would renounce the religion they were educated in, and become Turks or Infidels.

Theſe are the only men to be found for ſuch as can contrive forms for their preſervation beyond the limits of the law, and are regardleſs of honour, truth, and virtue, which to them are only nominal, and have no place in the breaſt or dealings in the heart. That ſuch caitiffs as theſe exiſt, is notorious; that Jews make uſe of them, is certain; witneſs the number of bankrupts amongſt that people; the number of certificates, obtained by fictitious creditors on their affirmations, who were never owed a farthing, purpoſely calculated to defeat the honeſt creditor of his juſt demands, and give the Jew bankrupt his liberty to play the ſame villainous game over and over again. Therefore, if a law of reſtriction were laid upon them in their dealings, or a ſevere penalty on that claſs of people, beſides exemplary puniſhment on the culprit on detection, according to the heinouſneſs of the offence, it would not only, in ſome meaſure, put a ſtop to their diabolical proceedings, but likewiſe be the means of ſaving the lives of many of his Majeſty's ſubjects, which are wantonly and wickedly, without mercy or humanity, plundered and deſtroyed by theſe peſts of ſociety; for as in this caſe every offender would ſuffer for the commiſſion of illicit practices againſt the laws of the land, the greater number would thereby become circumſpect in their dealings, and

be

be watchful of their brethren, for fear of the fine and puniſhment in force againſt them. Bulls and Bears would ſcarcely be found in the Alley, or want of credit and charity on the Exchange. Beſides the good effect this might produce in their morals and manners, it would become of great utility to the ſtate in general, as it might be applied towards diſcharging the national debt, which they, from time to time, have conſiderably helped to increaſe, by hoarding up their vaſt riches, and preying on the neceſſities of the prodigal ſpendthrift, or uninſtructed diſſipated youth, by lending out money at fifty per Cent. to them during their non-age.

The various ſchemes and ſtratagems made uſe of by Jews, to cheat and over-reach the unſuſpecting Chriſtian, are ſo many and complicated, that it would take up a large volume to pourtray them, therefore ſuffice it to remark, that of all mankind Jews are the moſt to be avoided, being capable of committing any crime in the world, in order to enrich themſelves, and deceive you. There is ſcarcely a day paſſes without complaints being lodged againſt them, either for murder, robbery, extortion, receiving of ſtolen goods, and a long train of crimes, to open the eyes of the public, and put them on their guard againſt theſe locuſts, that prey on the very vitals of our land, and ſtarve our children, while they pamper themſelves, and live on the fatneſs thereof. Doctor Johnſon ſays, *Taxation is no Tyranny*—Let theſe therefore be taxed, and ſeverely too, they can afford it, for as they have money in plenty, it will eaſe them of part of the burden they groan under, and thereby lighten the burden of taxes impoſed upon ourſelves. Retaliation is commendable in this caſe, and ought forthwith to be put in practice

tice againſt them, under the ſanction of the law to be made and provided, "For effectually put-"ting a ſtop to the many mal-practices and de-"ceptions daily committed by Jews, and to "amerce them with fines and inflict puniſh-"ments, ſuch as the nature of their offence may "require; the fines to be appropriated in diſ-"charge of the national debt, &c. &c." By this means, if we cannot make them honeſt, we ſhall at leaſt make them ſerviceable, which will anſwer the preſent exigency of affairs in England quite as well, nay perhaps better; for to make them honeſt is morally impoſſible; but to make their money ſerviceable to us, is beyond a doubt, therefore I am for the *lex talionis* being put in force without further delay, and that the Jews ſhould aſſiſt in ſupporting the ſtate in a more ample manner than heretofore; which will be only returning a tenth of his ill-gotten pelf, to the diſgrace of his fraternity and the triumph of numberleſs offenders.

From what I have ſaid relative to Jews, the countryman will naturally be warned againſt them, and their inſinuating wiles, calculated to cheat and defraud every body in their power, as well as the other defaulters herein before ſet forth. I am alſo perſuaded, that the ſhop-keeper and tradeſman will find their account in the peruſal of this book; and, if they follow the cautions inſerted againſt frauds and cheats, at the year's end, they will have the pleaſure to find their ſhops unrifled, and their goods ſecure. I am credibly informed, by an haberdaſher in the city, that, on a calculation for ſeveral years paſt, he has not been robbed of leſs than one hundred and fifty pounds yearly, by thoſe *retail cuſtomers* who make a trade of bilking every ſhop they enter into, if oppor-

opportunity ſerves, by ſelling bad goods, exchanging them for others, and ſometimes privately ſtealing.

To conclude, it is my hearty and ſincere wiſh, that the pains and trouble I have taken to inveſtigate and find out the different frauds committed in and about London, and the mode of detection, together with the cautions in general given to the free hearted and unſuſpecting countryman, above deceit himſelf, nor fearing it in others, may have the deſired effect; which is, to prevent and detect cheats and robbers from preying upon the unwary, and to guard againſt the artifices and crafty deceptions of the deſigning thief, who intends, by ſpecious and hypocritical profeſſions, to worm himſelf into the good opinion of his friend or patron, the better to deceive him. That theſe incorrigible and enſnaring villains are to be avoided without parlying with them, I have herein attempted to demonſtrate and prove, not only by laying down rules to eſcape them, but alſo by ſhewing the different methods they make uſe of to compleat their iniquitous purpoſes, which, if properly attended to, I make no doubt will repay the reader for the time he ſpends in giving it the peruſal. Should theſe ſheets fall into the hands of the vicious or abandoned herein deſcribed, it is to be hoped the mirror will ſtrike him ſo forcibly, as to induce him to deſiſt from all future criminal acts, ſo that he may, on leaving off his villainous proceedings, be once more received into the community of the honeſt and deſerving part of the world, who will rejoice for the loſt ſheep being found and reſtored to the fold of it's owner, which is the ardent prayer and wiſh of the Author.

FINIS.